



## Celebrating Mini Farmer Day 2023: A Fun-filled Agricultural Adventure in South East Queensland Schools

### Mini Farmer Day returns

For the second year running, Mini Farmer Day made a triumphant return to 12 Pick of the Crop schools across South East Queensland. Back due to popular demand, the unique event aimed at bringing the farm experience to the classroom, was filled with exciting activities, educational resources, and a celebration of the diversity of fruits and veggies.

### Hands on Learning

To kickstart the event, each school received four boxes of "Good & Fugly" fruit boxes, promoting the importance of reducing food waste by appreciating imperfect but perfectly delicious fruit. This not only encouraged a sustainable mindset among the students but also brought attention to the significance of supporting local farmers.



### Fruit, Books and Beyond

Accompanying the fruit boxes were copies of the engaging "George the Farmer" books and a Pick of the Crop activity booklet. The booklet served as a flexible guide, offering a plethora of engaging activities for students, including the creation of no-dig gardens and activities linked to each 'George the Farmer' book. 'George the Farmer' books, which

centre around 'life on the land' and the farm-to-table concept, captivated the students' imaginations and sparked conversations about the journey of food from the farm to their tables. A participating teacher shared:

"Mini Farmer's day was loved by all preppies, particularly reading the 'George the Farmer' books and talking more about food."



### From Classroom to Kitchen

The Pick of the Crop activity booklet features vegetable-packed recipes that encourages students to explore the world of nutritious and delicious meals. This culinary aspect of Mini Farmer Day aimed to reinforce the farm-to-table concept, emphasising the importance of fresh produce in creating wholesome dishes.





### Bringing Fun to the Farm

The joyous atmosphere on Mini Farmer Day was not limited to the classrooms; it extended to the outdoor activities where some students planted vegetables, others participated in a cow milking simulation, and showcased their dancing and coloring skills. The incorporation of these activities not only made learning about agriculture entertaining but also ensured that the lessons were memorable for the young participants.



### Teachers Join the Learning Fiesta

One of the highlights of Mini Farmer Day was the teachers' involvement in trying new fruits and learning new skills.

"The fruit for farmers week has been a hit" (teacher feedback)

The teachers embraced the learning experience, with one cutting a pineapple for the first time, and another enjoying kiwi fruit for the first time.



Mini Farmer Day proved to be a resounding success, blending education with enjoyment. The initiative not only provided valuable insights into the agricultural world for the students but also promoted sustainable practices and healthy eating habits. With teachers and students alike embracing the day with open minds and hearts, Mini Farmer Day serves as a shining example of how education and fun can go hand in hand to create lasting impressions and positive change.

Acknowledgement: This event was designed and delivered by Samantha Wyatt, Pick of the Crop Regional Coordinator - South East, Childrens Health Queensland HHS