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By NCTA News Service

## **Eighth graders explore agriculture at NCTA**

Curtis, Neb. – Eighth graders at North Platte’s Adams Middle School might consider agricultural professions in welding, animal science, crops, agribusiness management or veterinary science after a glimpse into their futures.

Sixty students and four administrators visited the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture last Tuesday to learn about career opportunities in areas of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

“It was a pleasure to host the Adams Middle School Engage class this week. It was exciting to have our Agricultural Education students work with the middle school students to learn more about NCTA and how we can help facilitate their future in agriculture,” said Tina Smith, NCTA recruitment coordinator, a Texas native who studied Animal Science and Speech Communications in college.

While on campus, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders explored agribusiness management, veterinary technology, agronomy and animal science.

NCTA students shared what they are learning in four venues. At an indoor arena, Aggie students exercised horses in the advanced equitation class, while veterinary technology students were studying animal anatomy by identifying skeletons and bones in the anatomy lab.

Meanwhile, in the ag mechanics laboratory the students in Welding I were fusion welding with oxygen-acetylene torches. Agribusiness management programs were also showcased in the sessions.

Agricultural education majors at NCTA provided the tours and presentations, Smith said. The ag students are completing their second year of coursework at NCTA and will transfer in 2017 to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to complete their student teaching and degrees.

“To round out our day, all students enjoyed an ice cream sandwich as they heard from Brenda Aufdenkamp on how they can become involved in STEM programs today through Lincoln County 4-H,” Smith added.

NCTA will host a “Discovery Day” for prospective students who are exploring their options for college on Monday, Oct. 10. For more information or to register, see <http://ncta.unl.edu/discovery-days> or call Tina Smith at 1-800-3-CURTIS.

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(Editor’s note: High resolution photos are available upon request.)

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Link to this article: <http://go.unl.edu/sirk>



North Platte's Adams Middle Schools students observe NCTA Aggie welders Devon Garcia (left) and Justin Rosati (seated) during a welding class. (T. Smith/NCTA photos)



Adams Middle School students hear from NCTA agricultural education about becoming FFA Ag Ed instructors or 4-H Youth leaders. From left, are Karlee Johnson, Jentrie Maurer, Eleanor Aufdenkamp, Trevor Ginkens and Brent Thomas. (T.Smith/NCTA photo)



Karlee Johnson explains the equine programs at NCTA (T.Smith/NCTA photo)