

**September 21, 2010**

**Fourth grade students at Heather Hill School in Flossmoor School District 161 are participating for the second year in a unique pen-pal program, *Agriculture in the Classroom*.**

***Agriculture in the Classroom* is a free program developed by the Illinois Farm Bureau for students in grades K-8, designed to educate students about the importance of agriculture and the business of food and fiber production. The program promotes student understanding of the rural community and the importance of agriculture and farmers to our society.**

**Throughout the 2009-2010 school year the student's pen-pal farmer, Roger Dunham, sent them letters, farming magazines, local newspapers, books and videos. He also provided the students with samples of cattails, corncobs, soybean seeds, and small toy farm equipment.**

**The students were exceptionally excited when Mr. Dunham and his wife, Charlotte, visited their classrooms, shared information about life on the farm, brought books and John Deere board games for the classrooms, and answered many of the student's questions.**

**The *Agriculture in the Classroom Program* is composed of lessons that are flexible, enabling teachers to design content that supports their grade-level curriculums.**

**Ms. Venus Smith is the principal of the school, the fourth grade teachers are Ms. Rebecca Brink and Mr. James Czerwonka. Ms. Kate Raddatz is the coordinating teacher who initiated the schools' participation in the program.**