‘I want to be a scientist,’ thanks to 4-H Agri-science in the City

Not a teacher. Not a fireman.

When he grows up, 8-year-old Jamir Green wants to be a scientist.

“It seems fun,” he said. “You can make chemicals and medicines.”

As a second-grader at George Washington Carver STEM Elementary School on Cleveland’s East Side, Green was inspired by Rob Isner, who has led the school’s 4-H Agri-science in the City program since it began in 2014.

In Cincinnati’s Over-the-Rhine neighborhood, Tony Staubach offers the same program at Rothenberg Preparatory Academy.

As 4-H staff members, Isner and Staubach integrate food- and farm-related science activities during school, in after-school programs, in 4-H clubs and at summer day camps.

“When I started the program, most students said science was their least favorite subject,” Isner said. “Now, more than half say it is their favorite. They only have the agri-science program once a week, but we’re having an impact.”

More: go.osu.edu/agrisci2015

“The 4-H Agri-science in the City program is invaluable. The students have watched chicks hatch, explored the properties of air, and conducted experiments with force and motion, sound and vibration. The scientific process is continually reinforced, fostering skills of observation, critical thinking, accurate data collection and cooperation.”

— Annette DiGirolamo, second-grade teacher (retired), Rothenberg Preparatory Academy

Thanks to a new 4-H program, many students at George Washington Carver STEM Elementary School in Cleveland now say science is their favorite subject.

ESSENTIALS

Agri-science in the City programs provided by Ohio 4-H focus on students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

- In Cincinnati, nearly 500 students participated from March 2014 through May 2015, when students who say they believe it is possible to farm in the city increased from 54 percent to 74 percent, and students indicating they want to work in food or farming increased from 15 percent to 31 percent.

- In Cleveland, nearly 600 students participated during the 2014–15 school year. At the end of the year, 83 percent gave the program an “A;” 67 percent said they wanted to learn more about agriculture the next year; and 42 percent said it was “very likely” they would attend a career tech program in agri-science in high school.
WE CONNECT WITH PEOPLE IN ALL STAGES OF LIFE.

We work with families and children, farmers and business owners, and community leaders and elected officials to build better lives, better businesses and better communities that make Ohio great. We do this through a focus on the following impact areas.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

We teach people how to apply research in their daily lives in order for them to make informed choices about everything from finances to healthy living to food safety.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

Our 4-H youth development program delivers skills in leadership, communications, math, science and research to 216,000 young Ohioans. Ohio 4-H extends its reach through special in-school, after-school and summer programs.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Ohio’s diverse agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries contribute $105 billion to the state’s economy every year. We assist with technology, marketing and educational support, protecting Ohio’s position in the global marketplace. We also work to enhance the environment, water quality and natural resources in the state — balancing economic progress with environmental sustainability.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

Our economic, small business and job development programs are tailored to local community needs in every county, whether metropolitan, rural or a combination of both.