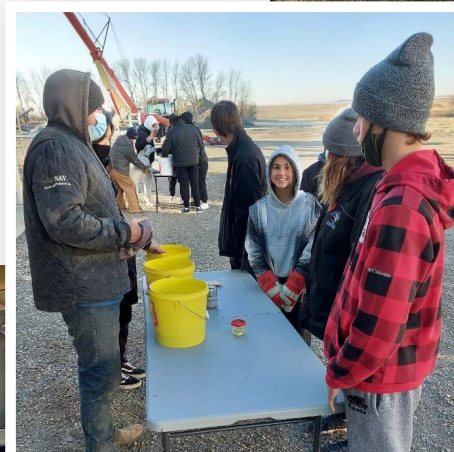


GEOGRAPHY CLASS DOES FARM TOUR

Kent Lewarne - Regional Manager



What started out as a discussion about water in our agricultural community quickly turned into an amazing and engaging tour of our watershed. Students from Pilot Mound Collegiate heard from local farmers and ag businesses about water stewardship issues in our area of southern Manitoba. The tour began at Wallace Seeds. Owner, Joe Wallace provided an overview of his seed business and importance of seed in producing food to feed the world. Joe and his staff answered student concerns related to crop selection and inputs. Students were challenged to match the right grain to the right product to wrap up the session. Then it was off to meet Jen Avery from NexGen Drainage Solutions. Hosting us at a lift station, Jen shared her experience of the tile drainage issue and some of the concerns she deals with from landowners installing but living near proposed projects. A mixed farm operation, Thornhill Farm (The Buchanan's) was the next stop. And a highlight here was feeding the cattle out in the pasture.



Many of the students, living in Pilot Mound to attend the hockey academy, were new to the agriculture scene! The Q-A here led to a discussion about the impact of cattle grazing on the land and carbon sequestration! (an added bonus) Off to Covers and Co to

see founder Joe Gardiner and learn about the benefits of cover crops. We kept Joe to his allocated time but his easy going, passionate presentation of how he transitioned from “conventional” farming to his current practises was well received by the group. The last stop was all about the water flowing in this watershed. At the Rock Lake Dam, students were challenged to think about the ag practises of each site and the impact those practices had on the water in the Pembina River where we were standing. What an incredible way to discuss topics related to Manitoba’s Grade 10 Science and Geography course including, Food from the Land, Natural Resources, Dynamics of an Ecosystem, Chemistry in Action and Weather Dynamics.

