

Entomological Foundation 2018 Micro Grant Report

Grant Awarded: Micro Grant for mealworm breeding kits, \$105 fully funded

Organization: R. Steve Folsom Elementary School, Prosper ISD, 800 Sommerville, Prosper, Texas 75078

Contact: Rachel Bainbridge, 4th Grade Math & Science Teacher

During the 2018-2019 school year, we provided all 160 of our fourth grade students with an opportunity to observe the changes and life cycle of mealworms/darkling beetles. Thanks to the generous funding of the Entomological Foundation, each of our science classrooms was able to house a mealworm breeding system in which students were able to actively care for and observe the insects on a daily basis in the larva, pupa, and adult stages. Partnering with the daily observations, students researched mealworms using an interactive hyperdoc.

In addition to daily observations & research, all fourth grade students created a business plan for a mealworm farming business, tying our life cycle unit into our financial literacy unit. Students researched potential customers, start-up costs, fixed & variable expenses, and profit potential of running a mealworm farming business.

Below I have included a few pictures of the mealworm breeding habitat that we purchased and modified for each of our four science classrooms. You will notice in one of the pictures that we cut out the bottoms of one of the drawers of each kit and replaced it with mesh. This was so that the eggs would drop through to the next level, keeping the darkling beetles from potentially eating the newly hatched larva. Additionally, I have attached a few pictures of our students in action and an [example](#) of a final project that a group of students created to showcase their business plan.

We would like to thank the Entomological Foundation for their generous support of our project and helping bring this idea to fruition for our students. We look forward to using the breeding kits for years to come in our science classrooms & providing this opportunity for our future students.



