



## ***Best Practices Case Study***

[www.kspartners.org](http://www.kspartners.org)

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Editor's note: The Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force sponsors the Friends of Education Awards. To recognize exemplary partner development, Kansas Partners in Education sponsors the Partner Activity award category. Each nominee is a business, company, or agency that has provided an on-going partner activity over an extended period of time (minimum of three years), by means of volunteer time, services, finances or other types of support, in amount that exceeds typical collaboration from a private or public institution. This case study provides information about a 2008 Partner Activity nominee and is an educational service to KSPE members, their organizations, and prospective partners.

### **Certificate of Award Creekstone Farms**

***USD 385 District, Andover Public Schools, contact: Keturah Austin, Communications Specialist, [austink@usd385.org](mailto:austink@usd385.org)***

Recipient of Award:

Creekstone Farms nominated by USD 385 Andover Public Schools

Number of those reached by Creekstone Farms:

USD 385 Teachers and Students district wide

Age/Grade level reached by Creekstone Farms:

All Second grade students, Fifth grade students and Sixth grade students in USD 385

Who is Creekstone Farms:

Located in Arkansas City, Creekstone farms is provider of natural and premium Black Angus beef offering a complete line of premium and natural beef products to food services throughout the United States and abroad.

How the relationship between USD 385 and Creekstone Farms got started:

Andover USD 385 had been using a different supplier for donated animal parts, but their supplier was unable to provide for the school district due to scares of mad cow disease. Andover school contacted Creekstone Farms to ask for their help to provide animal organs for their classes. They were greeted with a welcoming Manager at Creekstone Farms who was happy to help and take over where the previous supplier had left off.

## Description of how Creekstone Farms supports USD 385:

For over four years Creekstone Farms has been supplying the second grade, fifth grade and sixth grade classrooms with bovine eyeballs, cow lungs and cow hearts for dissections in the district. The partnership between Creekstone Farms and USD 385, Andover Public Schools, has resulted in extra learning opportunities for students.

Students are able to study the animal parts and then apply what they have learned in a safe scientific dissection with the help of local professionals, parents and community members. The second graders learn about the parts of the eye and later get to dissect the bovine eyeball with the help of an eye doctor. The fifth graders study the effects of smoking on the lungs; students later get to practice dissecting a cow's lung with the help of parents, local doctors and veterinarians. The sixth graders focus on the heart learning about the effects of heart disease and the importance of the heart; students dissect cow hearts with the help of local doctors, parents and veterinarians.

The partnership with Creekstone Farms has created many opportunities for students to get hands-on experience with real eyeballs, lungs and hearts. Students in USD 385, Andover Public Schools, are able to get real opportunities with dissections and learn directly from professionals instead of a virtual lab which many other school districts rely on for dissections.

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