



KELLY WENZEL PHOTOS, COURIER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Destiny Birgans, 11, left, and Sapphire Taylor, 11, count the number of rings on a tree stump at the forestry emerald ash borer station during EnviroFest at Hawkeye Community College on Tuesday morning.

Learning environment

Waterloo fifth-graders attend first EnviroFest at Hawkeye College

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WATERLOO — Mason Lange picked up some tips on how to conserve water Tuesday during the Cedar Valley EnviroFest at Hawkeye Community College.

"Don't use, like, 30 minute showers," said the Poyner Elementary School fifth-grader. "When we brush our teeth, we shouldn't leave the water on."

He also learned about how a watershed drains and that materials that end up on the ground

such as fertilizers, oil and various chemicals wash into rivers.

Lange said what he heard will "totally, definitely" change his behavior. "Especially the showers, because I usually take 20-minute showers."

He was among 830 Waterloo Community Schools' fifth-graders who learned about topics like wildlife, habitat protection, Iowa's native prairie, trails and recycling during the first-ever daylong festival organized by the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District.

"We in the (conservation) district always want to do outreach," said Jeri Thornsberry,



Fifth-graders react as a sprinkler comes on at the storm water station and they learn about what kind of water ends up going in the storm drains during Cedar Valley EnviroFest at Hawkeye Community College on Tuesday morning.

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