

# KVEC Food Show 2026

## Complete Event Recap

April 30, 2026 • Hazard, KY



The KVEC Food Show brought together 9 in person vendors, 2 sample vendors, food service directors, and students from across our member districts for a morning of food sampling, product demonstrations, and hands-on learning. **Students served as Food Critics, rating every vendor on taste and selection.**

11

Total Vendors

9

Booths

22

Student Critics



Students sampling food and talking with KVEC Staff

# Special Thanks - Sample Vendors

*These vendors couldn't attend in person but sent samples and swag for everyone to enjoy!*

## National Food Group

Sent Samples — Snacks & Fruit Cups

**Michele Clark, RDN, SNS** — K12 Sales  
mclark@nationalfoodgroup.com | (248) 560-2360

Thank you to National Food Group for sending samples and swag! Michele Clark and the NFG team shipped in Zee Zees snack bars, fruit cups, and grab-and-go items that our attendees loved and cleared out.



## Kellanova

Sent Samples — Snacks & Swag

**Veronica Hagen**  
Veronica.Hagen2@kellanova.com | 606-599-7353

Huge thank you to Kellanova and Veronica Hagen for the incredible haul of Pringles Mingles samples and swag! There were so many Kellanova hats given away that our district managers and cooks are going to be styling for a minute.



# #1

## Hillyard

KVEC Chemical & Cleaning Supply Vendor

★★★★

4.3 / 5

**Contact:** Michael Vernon

**Email:** [mvernon@hillyard.com](mailto:mvernon@hillyard.com)

**Phone:** 606-821-8121

Hillyard showcased their line of cleaning products and dispensing systems for school kitchens and facilities. **As one of KVEC's chemical vendors, they keep our districts' kitchens sparkling.**



### What the Student Critics Said

- "Great!"
- "Really good cloth for cleaning"
- "Nice cloth"
- "2 stars for cool dudes"

# #2

## DD Reckner

Food Broker



4.5 / 5

**Contact:** Jennifer Miller

**Email:** [jennifer.miller@ddreckner.com](mailto:jennifer.miller@ddreckner.com)

**Phone:** 502-546-8200

DD Reckner brought an impressive spread featuring wraps, drumsticks, chipotle chicken, grilled cheese, and cheese bites.



### What the Student Critics Said

- "So good!"
- "Great food, including the grilled cheese"
- "Cheese bites were good, chipotle chicken was good"
- "All really good"
- "Honestly really good!"

# #3

## Rizwitsch Sales

Commodity & Commercial Broker

★★★★★

4.9 / 5

**Contact:** Tim Emrich

**Email:** [temrich@rizwitschsales.com](mailto:temrich@rizwitschsales.com)

**Phone:** 502-209-6534

Tim with Rizwitsch represented Jennie-O, Bongards, Foster Farms, Wild Mike's Pizza, Country Pure Juice, and Jones Dairy Farm.



### What the Student Critics Said

- "Everything was amazing"
- "Cheese bite was amazing, juice was yummy"
- "Loved the turkey"
- "Very flavorful, great cheese"
- "Amazing drink, juice, turkey"

# #4

# PepsiCo

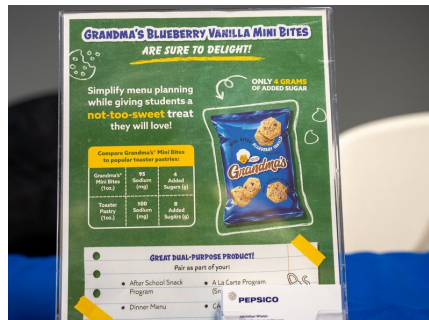
Snack & Beverage

★★★★

4.4 / 5

**Contact:** Johnathan Whelan  
**Email:** johnathan.whelan@pepsico.com  
**Phone:** 270-547-8278

PepsiCo showcased their lineup of snacks for school food service including Doritos, Tostitos, Stacy's, and more.



## What the Student Critics Said

- "Really good food"
- "Nice chips"
- "Cool chips"
- "Good snacks"
- "Very nice"
- "I like Peps"

# #5

## Peterson Farms

Juice & Fresh Products

★★★★★

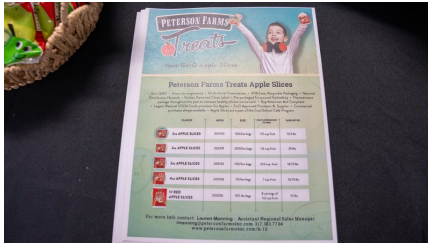
4.6 / 5

**Contact:** Lauren Manning

**Email:** [lmanning@petersonfarmsinc.com](mailto:lmanning@petersonfarmsinc.com)

**Phone:** 317-383-7724

Peterson Farms featured their fresh juice products, lemonade, and healthy snack options.



### What the Student Critics Said

- "It's really good"
- "Lemonade juice is really good"
- "Good healthy options for juice"
- "Love it"
- "Can't tell it's veggie"

#6

# MPK Commodity Processing Group

Commodity Processing

★★★★★

4.3 / 5

**Contact:** Mary Kuhn

**Email:** [mary.kuhn@mpk-kpg.com](mailto:mary.kuhn@mpk-kpg.com)

**Phone:** 502-689-4514

MPK brought pizza, wings, swirl treats, nachos, and other items.



## What the Student Critics Said

- "I love the wings & pizza!"
- "Really good"
- "Tasted and looked good"
- "Swirl was sweet & good"
- "Good nachos"

# #7

## The Dairy Alliance

Dairy Promotion

★★★★★

4.8 / 5

**Contact:** Matti Coffey

**Email:** [mcoffey@thedairyalliance.com](mailto:mcoffey@thedairyalliance.com)

**Phone:** 606-260-3722

The Dairy Alliance featured dairy products and oat-based items, promoting dairy in school nutrition.



### What the Student Critics Said

- "Love!"
- "I really like it"
- "Awesome"
- "Oats was good"
- "Pretty good"

#8

# Tyson Foods

Protein & Prepared Foods

★★★★★

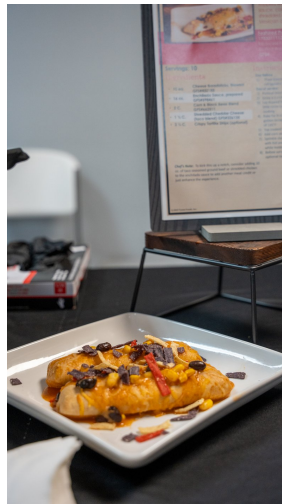
4.7 / 5

**Contact:** Liz Boyle

**Email:** [elizabeth.boyle@tyson.com](mailto:elizabeth.boyle@tyson.com)

**Phone:** 317-224-9437

Tyson Foods brought a variety of chicken products including popcorn chicken and other protein items.



## What the Student Critics Said

- "I love this!"
- "Really good"
- "Great flavor"
- "Really good"
- "The eating is good"

#9

Affinity

Food Broker

★★★★

4.2 / 5

**Contact:** Charlie Shunnarah

**Email:** [charlie.shunnarah@affinitysales.com](mailto:charlie.shunnarah@affinitysales.com)

**Phone:** 502-523-2511

Affinity showcased flavorful chicken products and other prepared food options for school menus.



### What the Student Critics Said

- "Very flavorful"
- "This was really good"
- "Really good"
- "Juicy, flavorful"
- "Juicy chicken was solid"

# Resources & Media

*All vendor materials and event photos are available online.*

## Vendor Materials

Find all the slides, presentations, spec sheets, and documents that vendors shared at the Food Show.

**Google Drive:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Zp6Q4XyFi7XAa09WHPujcmMNaS-QW50T>

## Photo Album

Browse the full collection of Food Show photos, vendor setups, food close-ups, student critics in action, and more.

**Flickr Album:**

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCTcv9>

*Questions? Contact Alex at [alex@theholler.org](mailto:alex@theholler.org) or call at (606) 794-7095.*