

Dave Rossetti, left, in character as Professor Pruvitt, exclaims over the proficiency of a mechanical milking machine that volunteer Mike Schmidt, 64, helps to demonstrate while wearing a cow costume Monday at the Funky Farmworks show at the Ventura County Fair.



Photos by Karen Q...

Young fairgoers 'edutained' about food production

Acting duo teaches children about farming, technology

By John Scheibe

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If nothing else, actors Dave Rossetti and Vanessa Cowan hope the children watching the duo's Ventura County Fair show will learn where their food originates.

In an increasingly urban world, a surprisingly large number of young people think food is produced in supermarkets, said Rossetti, who with Cowan is performing

in the Mad Science "Funky Farmworks" show at the Ventura County Fair.

The 30-minute production, which continues through Sunday at Seaside Park's Youth Expo Building, shows how food is really grown on farms.

It also illustrates how science and technology have revolutionized just about every aspect of farming, even something as simple as



Esteban Rubio, 7, of Camarillo, right, looks out from beneath the hat he and others wore as volunteer ears of corn for a Funky Farmworks show at the fair on Monday.

planting a seed.

Farmers today have increased their agricultural output by using satellite-guided GPS technology to plant more seeds on a unit of land. And genetic engineering

has given many plants stronger, hardier roots and stalks, making them more resistant to wind and drought.

Satellite technology also has made it easier for farmers

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