

The FCPS statement below has been approved to be shared with your organization of butterfly farmers. Please share this to demonstrate that FCPS supports the butterfly farmers and hopes that they will help us continue to include monarch caterpillars in our instructional program.

An individual has distributed inaccurate information regarding the monarch caterpillars provided to Fairfax County Public Schools, stating that all of the caterpillars sent to our school system by butterfly farmers were diseased. This statement is false. The majority of our caterpillars successfully completed metamorphosis. Based on the teacher feedback we received this year, it appears that environmental factors were the primary cause of caterpillar death -- not disease. The science department is continuing to communicate with the butterfly farmers and the teachers to improve the overall success of rearing monarch caterpillars as part of our instructional program.

Thanks,
Tim

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