

2008 AITC Teacher Mini-Grant Recipients

- Teacher:** Scott McPherson- Denmark Elementary School, Denmark
Grade: 5
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: Reporting on Foods
Description: Students will research farming methods from the turn of the century to discover how the machines, tools and methods have evolved. They will focus on improvements made to the machines and tools used to harvest corn as well as any new methods to harvest corn. The students will write an informational piece explaining how their lives have been impacted due to the advancements of farming methods, tools and machines. The students can utilize the schools news program (DESK News) to edit their work and share it with the elementary school.
- Teacher:** Terri Salzwedel- St. Peter Lutheran School, Schofield
Grade: Kindergarten
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: Young Farmers
Description: The agricultural unit is all about growing vegetables. The classroom has a root view farm that focuses on the science of growing by showing the roots of onions, carrots, and radishes. An agricultural literacy bag will be compiled that will have a "Growing Vegetable Soup" book which will introduce literacy and vocabulary skills associated with vegetables. The unit will also use magnetic colored balls representing vegetables, smocks with vegetables on them, and rubber stamps which will allow students to experience prewriting skills of associating words with symbols.
- Teacher:** Amy Dirksen- St. Peter Lutheran School, Schofield
Grade: 1 - 2 multi-age
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: Under Where?
Description: Students will grow bean seeds by using plastic bags and paper towels. They will also observe plant growth and insect activity by viewing plants and insects through a root view display. Making learning fun and incorporating hands-on activities, music will also be incorporated into the curriculum. Students will be able to eat the carrots, radishes and onions grown in the root view display garden.
- Teacher:** Connie Malueg- Marion Elementary School, Marion
Grade: 3
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: Hatching Chicks
Description: By learning how a chick hatches from an egg, students will gain an understanding of the important role agriculture plays in their lives. Students will be able to identify the egg as the first stage of life and describe the steps of a chicken's life cycle. They will list how chickens and eggs benefit humans. They will write a story about a mysterious egg using writing traits. They will also predict, estimate and graph when and how many of the chicks will hatch. The students will also use Kid Pix software to make a visual pictograph to share with the school and parents.
- Teacher:** Coleen Pember- Tiffany Creek Elementary School, Boyceville
Grade: 4
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: Wisconsin Crops for the Classroom
Description: Students will explore different products of Wisconsin through various books and activities. Through reading and interpretation, they will use books to help them understand the connection between Wisconsin agricultural products and the importance of those products to the rest of the world. Students will use graph organizers that go along with the reading material, meet in small groups, and will make a group presentation to their class about what they learned.

Teacher: Rick Henningfeld- Big Foot High School, Walworth
Grade: 9 - 12
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: Got Worms
Description: This project is designed to highlight the importance of worms in agriculture and how they can play a role in sustainable agriculture in the future. The project is based on awareness of vermiculture and vermicomposting. Various classes will study how worms affect the soil, plant growth, and composting. The FFA PALS program will use a worm bin so that high school students can teach elementary students about worms. The project will also coordinate with the school food service in developing a vermicomposting display with an education display for the entire school population.

Teacher: Vicki Eberhardt- St. Peter Lutheran School, Schofield
Grade: 3 – 4 multi-age
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: You Crack Me Up
Description: The multi-age classroom will use an incubator in an attempt to hatch chicken eggs. The overall goal of this project will be to use science tools (incubator and microscope) to explore the wonder of life. Students will learn parts of the science trade by journaling and charting the progress of the experiment as well as what they see through the microscope when examining eggs shells, unhatched egg material and feathers. Classroom discussions will include the impact of climate and temperature. A guest speaker will talk about his experiences of raising animals for food and pleasure.

Teacher: Becky Colwell- Pineview Elementary School, Reedsburg
Grade: 1
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: Don't Count Your Chickens
Description: Students will make weekly observations of fertilized eggs placed in an incubator. They will learn about the developmental stages of a chick and about eggs, egg production and egg processing. Students will care for the chicks for 2-3 weeks after hatching. They will create a content report using observations, class discussions, informational worksheets, and research books from the school and public libraries. Students will also utilize computer technology including smart boards to aid in their presentations. A field trip to a local egg processing operation will also take place.

Teacher: Jill Jones- Markesan High School, Markesan
Grade: 7 - 12
Funds Awarded: \$100
Project Title: PALS Activities
Description: The Markesan FFA Chapter will participate in the FFA PALS Program with 2nd grade students. They will educate children on various agricultural topics including an "A Day in the Life of a Farmer" program which helps students learn about farming as a business, and develop an "Adopt-a-Calf" program. During monthly visits to the classroom, the FFA members can help the younger students see how the calf is growing, how to take care of a calf, and incorporate subjects such as domestic animal care, jobs and careers, and food safety into their discussions. At the end of the year, they will take a field trip to the farm and get to meet their calf.