

2011 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Matching Grant Recipients

Grow Your Own – AgAdventureland, Washington County - \$250

AgAdventureland is an opportunity at the Washington County Fair to enrich the lives of local community members by showing the importance of the \$59.6 billion dollar agriculture industry and how the food, fuel, and fiber industries impact their daily life. The new “Grow Your Own” project will allow youth to see many stages of plant growth and then plant and take home lettuce or bean plants. Guests will also have a chance to learn hands-on activities through being a “Farmer for a Day”, milking demonstrations, Fair Gardens- Fun Edibles, visit with Alice in Dairyland and Wisconsin Honey Queen, and share ideas with the Washington County Master Gardeners.

Going Green Through Worming Adventures- Badger High School FFA, Lake Geneva- \$500

Badger Agriculture Department and Badger FFA are continuing their sustainability and going green efforts. Did you know that one pound of worms, about 4,000 worms total, can eat half a pound of organic material in 24 hours? This is one aspect of agricultural literacy that they hope to build into their student’s knowledge. The grant funds will be used to purchase worm composting bins for vermicomposting of kitchen scraps, cardboard, and newspaper. The castings and “worm tea” can be used as fertilizer within the Badger Greenhouses, community garden site, and/or landscape gardens around the school. The Badger Agriscience classes will have the opportunity to learn about vermiculture but also the Badger FFA plans to incorporate vermiculture as part of their 3rd grade Agri-science Day this October.

Growing Green- Clintonville Middle School - \$220

Partnering with the local FFA Chapter, seventh grade students will design, prepare, and plant vegetable herb, small fruit, and perennial gardens on school grounds. The seventh graders’ responsibilities will include researching species and varieties best suited to each purpose and location. Seventh grade classes will begin work in the spring, with summer school classes continuing the work, and a new group of seventh graders taking over the project each September. Each group will prepare detailed reports of their accomplishments and recommendations so that subsequent classes can continue the project seamlessly.

Cows on the Concourse- Dane County Dairy Promotion- Madison - \$500

Cows on the Concourse will be held on Saturday, June 4, in Madison. The matching grant will help fund educational exhibits including a Cow Zone, Get MOOving and Fit Zone, Ed’Moo”cation Zone, and Ask a Farmer Zone. An annual event to kick-off June Dairy Month, Cows on the Concourse is a “dairy good” time for the whole family. This free event is held just off of downtown Madison’s Capitol Square. Only Cows on the Concourse gives kids and adults the unique opportunity to get close to cows and baby calves, enjoy hot grilled cheese sandwiches, chug ice-cold milk, and visit with Wisconsin dairy farmers.

Starting an Ag in the Classroom Program – Door County Farm Bureau- \$250

Door County Farm Bureau is planning to visit Door County schools and classrooms. The matching funds will help them purchase resources that will enhance these visits. They plan to read agricultural stories to elementary aged students, conduct hands-on activities, and help them understand the importance and size of the agricultural industry.

Agricultural Ambassador Program- Fond du Lac Area Agri-Business Council- \$500

The Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce Agri-Business Council's Agricultural Ambassador Program has developed three programs to expand curriculum to include the 4K grade level. These programs, focusing on dairy, pork, fruit and vegetable industries, provide an introduction to the years of presentations students receive about Wisconsin agriculture. The Agricultural Ambassador Program provides a unique service, free of charge, to the greater Fond du Lac County area by creating agricultural education opportunities for area schools that would not otherwise be available. During the 2010-11 school year, the program will educate more than 15,000 students and teachers in the area.

PALS- Janesville FFA Alumni- \$500

PALS is an acronym for Partners in Active Learning Support. FFA members from Janesville Craig and Parker High Schools lead students from the Boys & Girls Club in various lessons relating to different aspects of science and agriculture. FFA members are responsible for planning and implementing activities and creating lesson plans. Projects have included bringing livestock to the club and creating a "Garden on Wheels". PALS is a win-win for members of both groups. The younger kids really look up to the high school FFA members, and it's a leadership opportunity for the FFA members involved. The program opens the door for a more diverse membership and helps form strong community partnerships.

Farmer in the Classroom – Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom - \$465

The Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom committee is dedicated to reaching students throughout the county and providing opportunities for them to learn about agriculture. Twenty volunteer members give the classroom presentation "A Day Without Agriculture" to over 31 classes in Jefferson County. In addition, they serve as liaisons for the "Farmer in the Classroom" discussions where students get to interact first hand with real agriculture producers. The group also is an integral part of the annual 4th grade farm tour where students get to visit and learn at a real dairy farm in Jefferson County.

From Seed to Table- Marshall Public Schools- \$500

Marshall Public Schools will be able to provide fresh fruits and vegetables through a program for their Early Learning Center students in grades PreK- 2 called "From See to Table". Students will experience the tastes of many locally grown fruits and vegetables and produce from around the world. They will learn about the growing process and the benefits of healthy eating. They hope to get the students excited about trying new, healthy foods- especially those that are locally grown- through visual presentations, taste samples, and lunch menu planning.

June Dairy Month- Omro FFA- \$250

The Omro FFA strives every year to keep everybody in our community and surrounding areas informed and educated about agriculture. Their June Dairy Month project provides them an opportunity to present relevant and interesting information about the dairy industry. The grant will allow them to have educational games such as dairy product matching, coloring the cow, guess the weight of the cow, and a petting zoo for students. Adults will receive educational brochures about dairy products, nutrition and the dairy industry.

Woodland Harvest Project- Riveredge Nature Center, Inc., Newburg - \$250

Riveredge Nature Center is expanding its educational offerings in Earth Sciences by developing a landforms program focused on soil erosion and soil conservations, using its Woodland Harvest Community-Based Permaculture and Local Foods Project as the "classroom". Located on land adjacent to the Riveredge sanctuary, Woodland Harvest is a project that will serve as a

regional model for sensible and sustainable land use on any scale. The Riveredge Landforms/Soil Erosion class will enable students to apply new knowledge directly through problem-based inquiry. Students, led by Riveredge naturalists, will investigate the land and develop their own models for soil conservation.

Classroom on the Farm- Sheboygan County Women's Committee- \$500

Over two days, Sheboygan County Farm Bureau will host over one thousand elementary students from five Sheboygan Schools at a modern working farm on an annual basis. The tour consists of nine different stations to help the students learn about the milking, what cows experience every day, barns, veterinarians, machinery and nutritional foods that are connected to the dairy industry. Educational resources for the teachers include books, videos, lesson plans, posters and lesson plans that teachers can incorporate into their curriculum.

Spencer FFA Day on the Farm- Spencer FFA- \$500

The Spencer FFA Day on the Farm is a fun and educational experience for 3rd and 4th grade Spencer elementary students held on a local farm each year. FFA members develop twelve interactive agricultural presentations. There are farm and outdoor safety sessions for the 3rd graders, and Food for America presentations for the 4th graders. It is a great experience for these students as many of them would not normally get the chance to learn about agricultural and safety topics, much less visit a modern farm.

Wisconsin Whey! – Tiffany Creek Elementary School, Boyceville- \$175

The fourth graders at Tiffany Creek Elementary School are able to experience a wide range of Wisconsin agriculture during a two-day excursion. They begin their tour at the Bartz Farm and see how a dairy farmer collects the milk, feeds the cows, and plants the crops. They follow the milk as it is transported to a local cheese factory in Spring Valley. They also visit a local orchard and bee-keeping business. During a stop at a beef farm, they learn about the beef industry. The final stop is to Lammer's Food Fest where they get a behind-the-scenes look at how dairy products are distributed to the consumers.

Make It With Wool Program- Wisconsin Make It With Wool, Jefferson- \$250

The Wisconsin Make it with Wool Program, held during the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival, offers a variety of educational opportunities to its participants. The classroom for the program reaches beyond the doors of a traditional classroom or school. Teachers are 4-H club leaders, University of Wisconsin Extension Agents, parents and grandparents, sheep, llama and alpaca producers, woolen mill operators, spinners, equipment vendors and supply stores, stock dog trainers and their dogs- all the people and related businesses and industries that are connected to sheep farming. The Youth Skillathon teaches production skills such as lambing, ram selection, proper feeding and housing of sheep. The Make it with Wool Program teaches life skills including creativity with their projects, poise and self-confidence for the interviews, modeling on-stage, and other opportunities it with Wool is a hands-on program that teaches during the program.