

**Ag in the Classroom News Release
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation®**

Website link:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ag in the Classroom Essay Topic Announced

MADISON – Why crops and plants are important to Wisconsin agriculture.

That's the topic of an essay contest from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program.

"Students in fourth and fifth grade will be able to share their thoughts, feelings and information about Wisconsin's agricultural, horticultural, fruit, vegetable and other specialty crops," explained Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. "Researching the topic will help students learn more about soil, germination, harvesting and processing of the crops that feed humans and animals."

The essays must be between 100 to 300 words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. All contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at www.wisagclassroom.org or by contacting Arneson at 608.828.5719 or darneson@wbf.com.

Participating students and schools need to submit essays by April 1 to their county Farm Bureau essay coordinator. A list of coordinators is also available at www.wisagclassroom.org.

A state winner will be selected from nine district winners in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Committee. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their entire class (or homeroom).

The contest is sponsored by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Frontier FS, We Energies, and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. Last year nearly 2,000 students participated in the essay contest.

Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in kindergarten through high school to understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.