



March- April 2011
Ag in the Classroom Newsletter
for County Leaders

Ten Reasons to Attend the AITC and Soybean Science Kit Training Workshops in Portage

1. Attend training on how to use the 59 Soybean Science Kits available in counties that are sponsored by the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board. For those of you with kits who have indicated that you need help using or promoting the kit, this is your chance to be in-serviced by the man who developed them!
2. Attend presentations by the Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Beef Council, Wisconsin Dairy Council and Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers on their educational resources, activities and support they offer!
3. Have an opportunity to learn more about Ag in the Classroom resources developed by the commodity groups and the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. There are some great new things that you'll be able to use in your classrooms and presentations.
4. Have time to explore the many agricultural resources, lesson plans, curriculum and other sources available. You'll be amazed at what all is available!
5. Being able to come as a group and then dividing up so that you can participate in both sessions during the day. This will enable you to learn about the soybean kits as well as the AITC resources.
6. For those that are staying over, have an opportunity Friday night for an informal sharing of resources and information. Bring along your success stories, samples, kits and other things that may benefit others!
7. Spend time on Saturday in the AITC workshops learning how to develop, strengthen or improve county programs. Sharing ideas and problem solving with other volunteers and teachers will enable you to improve your county programs.
8. Get additional help with report forms, grant applications, teacher award applications and other items related to county programs.
9. Go home with lots of resources that you receive throughout the workshops– lessons, resources, how to sheets, samples and much more!
10. Meet the other great people involved in Ag in the Classroom! You'll make new friends and create valuable contacts that will help you build your programs.

There is still time to register! Contact Darlene Arneson for any late registration questions! I can take additional registrations until Thursday, April 7.

Ag in the Classroom 4-5th Grade Essay Contest Concluding

The deadline for students and schools to submit essays is here! A mailing has gone out to the county essay coordinators and WFBF Women's Committee members so they can get their essays judged by deadlines. Thank you again to We Energies, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Foremost Farms and Wisconsin Farm Bureau for their support of the contest.

The deadlines for the contest are:

- **April 1, 2011**- Essays due to county Farm Bureau offices
- **April 15, 2011**- County Winners due to District Women's Chair with report on how many essays you received!
- **April 27, 2011**- District Winners due to Darlene from the WFBF Women's committee
- **April 29, 2011**- State Winner Selection Packet (copies of the nine district winners and ballot) sent to WFBF Women's Committee
- **May 6, 2011**- Ballots must be returned to Darlene
- **During weeks of May 16 to end of school year**- District Winner Presentations by Darlene Arneson, sponsors and county leadership.

White Reinhardt Recipients

Wisconsin was very successful in American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture White Reinhardt Funds. All five applications submitted in two categories were awarded funding. The Mini-Grant recipients include: **Brown County Farm Bureau**- Red Barn Learning Center kits for elementary students; **Jackson County Farm Bureau**- Ag activity kits on apples, bees, cranberries, corn, soybeans, dairy, sunflowers, forestry and nutrition; **Manitowoc County Farm Bureau**- Traveling agriculture presentation and materials kit; and **Wisconsin Farm Bureau- Ag in the Classroom**- Bringing Music to our Lives Project which takes ag-related songs and incorporates them into lesson plans for elementary students. Wisconsin also has an Educator Scholarship recipient in **Betty Krcma**, Green Bay Area Public Schools. Betty teaches agriculture education at Washington and Lombardi Middle Schools and serves as a FFA Advisor. Betty's award is to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Florida this June.

Teacher Mini-Grants Awarded

There were sixteen Teacher Mini-Grants awarded to the twenty-two applicants for a total of \$1,600. Recipients included: Ione Hausler- Stevens Point Area Senior High School; Rhona Scheubel- Clayton Schools; Rick Sime- Seneca School District; Michelle Meier- Lodi Middle School; Candance Olson- Badger High School, Delevan; Jan Soyk- Campbellsport Elementary School; Teri Eberhardy- Merrill Public Schools; Laura Fern- St. Croix Middle School; Elaine Huebner- St. Peter Lutheran School, Schofield; Kirstin Thompson- Viking Middle School, Woodville; Keven Busse- Omro School District; Melinda Goplin- Whitehall High School; Andrea Waski- Brodhead High School; Danielle Raether- Flambeau School District; Glen Schraufnagel- Thorp School District; and Isaac Littke- New Testament Christian Academy, Merrill.

Corn Resources Available

Thank you to the Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board for providing a variety of resources for our teachers, schools, students and volunteers. To help you connect with them on display materials for various events, here is an update on what is available:

- Amazing Corn Booklets – The shipments come to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau office and we distribute them. If you need booklets, contact Darlene Arneson. Currently, our supply is low so a request has been made to their board for continued funding and another shipment of 10,000 books!
- Bio-degradable bags – These are available from Nancy Kavazanjian. They are made from corn products and are primarily distributed through the Wisconsin Tourism Department. But Nancy will work with you on needs for various events.
- Kellogg Corn Flake boxes with information about the amount of corn products in cereal, what the farmer receives and other information. They are also available from Nancy Kavazanjian or you can make your own boxes by downloading the information from <http://wicorn.ncgapremium.com/>

Nancy Kavazanjian, Communications Director

Wisconsin Corn Growers Association www.wicorn.org

Phone: 920.887.2471 Fax: 920.887.2466 Nancy@wicornpro.org

Summer Teacher Training

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and University of Wisconsin – River Falls are offering a variety of options this summer including graduate course credit, undergraduate credit, in-service verification, or just attendance opportunities for teachers and others interested in incorporating agriculture into their K-12 curriculums. The teacher training days will incorporate Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom resources and involve other Wisconsin commodity groups and organizations working with agricultural literacy. Teachers, home school parents, extension staff, and others working with agricultural literacy are encouraged to take either the graduate course, undergraduate, in-service hours or just for fun! In-service registration forms will be posted on the www.wisagclassroom.org website. For information about graduate and undergraduate credits, you must also register with the UW-River Falls for the credit course after you register with Farm Bureau. Information about the graduate credit can be obtained by contacting Dr. James Graham at 715.425.3555 or james.graham@uwrf.edu.

Dates for this year's teacher training include:

- Wednesday, June 29, Green Bay area tour
- Thursday, July 7, Madison area tour
- Friday, July 8, Madison area classroom
- Tuesday, July 12, Farm Technology Days, Marshfield
- Wednesday, July 13, Farm Technology Days, Marshfield
- Thursday, July 14, Farm Technology Days, Marshfield
- Tuesday, August 2, River Falls tour day
- Wednesday, August 3, River Falls classroom day
- Friday, August 5, Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis
- Tuesday, August 9, Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis
- Friday, August 12, Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis

Book Program Updates

- We have recently learned that the book, *The Super Soybean*, is out of stock and the publisher is no longer printing it. We have a very limited number of copies available and have removed it from our book list. Some people have had luck finding used copies on-line of some of the books no longer being published.
- Process for selecting the Book of the Year – AITC works with the WFBF Women’s Committee in selecting the Book of the Year and Essay Contest topic. We will be reviewing books soon and a recommendation will be made to the WFBF Women’s Committee at their July meeting. At that time, an essay topic that is related to the new book title will also be chosen. Darlene Arneson will use the summer to find essay contest sponsorship, develop an activity booklet for the book, and lessons for the essay contest so that all items can be announced at the start of the school year.
- If you are looking for other books to use in your programs, there are many options available. You can find the American Farm Bureau’s recommended reading list at www.agfoundation.org (Click on Ag Literacy and then Recommended Books). Minnesota Ag in the Classroom also offers a book bundle (<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/kids.aspx>) with some of our past titles and other soft cover books.

Websites to check out!

- American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture- www.agfoundation.org – they are continuing to expand the educational resources, games and products for sale! You can now order items directly from them using a credit card! This is where you can order Ag Mags directly, I Met a Farmer Stickers, AFBF Farm Fact Pocket Guides and Pencils, and many other products.
- Environmental Education in Wisconsin- www.eeinwisconsin.org – This is the central location for all environmental education resources, groups, grants, contests and organizations. Visit it often to see what you can utilize in your presentations, Earth Day activities, and all the other ways that agriculture and the environment are connected.
- Wisconsin Dairy Council- <http://www.wmmb.com/wdc/overview.aspx> - With the updated Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board website, sometimes it’s hard to find the Wisconsin Dairy Council, the educational part of WMMB, on the website. Here is the direct link where you can find the Regional Program Managers, downloadable resources, nutrition information, and other resources.
- Wisconsin Career Pathways - <http://www.wicareerpathways.org/> - A great resource developed by the technical colleges, K-12 education and other groups education students, parents and teachers about careers.
- Wisconsin Fairs Association- <http://www.wifairs.com/> - They have a 4th grade educational packet with lesson plans, activities and resources to help promote county fairs.
- Statistical Information- <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/> - Your source for state and county agricultural statistics. Under the census tab, you can click on state profiles and then to your county to find information you can use in displays and presentations.
- Farm City Council- www.farmcity.org – Under their Farm City - Resources Tab, they have a variety of products you can use for displays, presentations and booths include activity sheets, book marks and other products. Plus they have some great information to use!

BOOKS FOR ELEMENTARY AGED STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND FAMILIES			
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TITLE	PRICE	# ITEMS	TOTAL PRICE
Extra Cheese Please!	\$15		
Popcorn!	\$15		
Amazing Grazing	\$15		
Farmer George Plants a Nation	\$15		
A Young Shepherd	\$15		
Fantastic Farm Machines	\$15		
Clarabelle (2011 Book of the Year)	\$15		
Total Shipping for 1-6 items	\$6		
Total Shipping for 7-19 items	\$9		
For 20+ books, contact FB for shipping information			
Send to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, PO Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705. Call 608.828.5719 if questions.	Event Code 991004	TOTAL	

Name _____ County _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
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Book of the Year 2011- Clarabelle- by Cris Peterson. Boyds Mills Press, 2007. Photographs by David R. Lundquist. Everyone knows that cows produce milk, which is great for drinking and also is made into cheese, butter, ice cream, and yogurt. But also electricity, fertilizer, and compost for animal stalls? Yes, cows produce these too! Vibrant, close-up photographs by David Lundquist capture Clarabelle with her herdmates and her newborn calf as well as the family members of Norswiss Farm who live and work together.

Extra Cheese, Please! Mozzarella's Journey From Cow to Pizza by Cris Peterson. Boyds Mills Press, 1994. Photographs by Alvis Uptis. Sparkling photographs document the cheese-making process - starting on the farm to the final packaged product in stores.

Popcorn! by Elaine Landau. Charlesbridge, 2003 Offers popcorn history, trivia, facts and figures and answers questions that children often wonder about. Useful for classroom projects and report writers as well as entertaining reading for popcorn

Amazing Grazing by Cris Peterson. Boyds Mills Press, 2002. Photographs by Alvis Uptis. Three Montana ranchers are featured as they carry out rotational grazing to create a healthy environment while raising beef cattle and managing the western range.

Farmer George Plants a Nation by Peggy Thomas. Calkins Creek, 2008. The new book reveals George Washington as he's rarely seen. Besides being a general and the first president of the United States, George Washington was also a farmer. His efforts to create a self-sufficient farm at Mount Vernon, Virginia, mirrored his struggle to form a new nation.

A Young Shepherd by Cat Urbigkit. Boyds Mills Press, 2006. Learn about raising sheep from Cass, a young shepherd who works on his family's sheep farm in Wyoming. The book has simple, informative text and engaging photos and presents a fascinating glimpse of a hard but rewarding way of life.

Fantastic Farm Machines by Cris Peterson. Boyds Mill Press, 2006. Wisconsin dairy farmer and acclaimed author Peterson introduces readers to twelve big pieces of farm machinery that help get the job done. Internationally renowned photographer David Lundquist shows each piece of machinery as well as fabulous aerial view and close-up details.



Discover Education's Hidden Treasure: Agriculture

2011 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

June 22-25, 2011

Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Who Should Attend

- Educators of all grade levels and subject areas
- Administrators
- Curriculum Developers
- Career Guidance Counselors
- Teacher Aides
- Substitute Teachers
- AITC Volunteers
- State AITC Contacts
- Agricultural Science Teachers
- Extension Educators
- AITC Board Members
- Agricultural Industry Representatives

Registration Fee Schedule

Registration Options	Registration Fees		
	If Registered by April 15	If Registered by May 13	If Registered after May 13
Full Conference Registration	\$400	\$450	\$500
Single Day Registration Wednesday*^	\$110	\$130	\$150
Single Day Registration Thursday*^	\$130	\$150	\$180
Single Day Registration Friday*^	\$180	\$200	\$220
Single Day Registration Saturday*^	\$100	\$120	\$140

*You may not register for more than one single day registration
^Single Day Registrations are not available for exhibitors. Exhibitors must register for Full Conference Registration.

Optional Tours

Pre and Post Conference Tours	Registration Fees
Pre-Tour to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, Tuesday, June 21st	\$70
Post-Tour to the Sawgrass Recreation Park at the Everglades, Saturday, June 25th	\$70

Guest Registration

Guest Tickets**	Registration Fees
National Awards Dinner (Wednesday)	\$50
Traveling Workshop (Thursday)	\$130
State Breakfast (Friday)	\$35
State Awards Luncheon (Friday)	\$45
Reggae Dinner (Friday)	\$65
Breakfast (Saturday)	\$35
**Guest Tickets are not for use by coworkers; guests may not attend sessions, Make & Take Fair, Roundtable Presentations, Refreshment Breaks or any event not listed above.	

Fee payments must accompany all registrations by the registration deadline to qualify for the applicable discount.

What Does the Registration Fee Include?

- **Conference Attendees:** The 2011 National Agriculture in the Classroom registration fee provides full participation in the conference including registration materials, attendance in sessions, as well as Wednesday's PM Break and National Awards Dinner, Thursday's Continental Breakfast, Friday's State Breakfast, State Awards Luncheon, PM Refreshment Break and Reggae Dinner, as well as Saturday's Breakfast.
- **Single Day Registration Fees:** The 2011 National Agriculture in the Classroom Single Day Registration Fee provides attendees with conference materials, as well as attendance in conference sessions for the day you will be in attendance. Please see additional items included below in accordance with the day of the week you will be attending. Please note: Single Day Registrations are not for use by exhibitors; exhibitors must register for the full conference registration.
 - **Wednesday:** In addition to the above items, Wednesday Single Day Registrants will receive the PM Refreshment Break, as well as entry into the National Awards Dinner.
 - **Thursday:** In addition to the above items, Thursday Single Day Registrants will receive the Continental Breakfast, as well as participation in the traveling workshops.
 - **Friday:** In addition to the above items, Friday Single Day Registrants will receive entry into the State Breakfast, State Awards Luncheon, PM Refreshment Break and Reggae Dinner.
 - **Saturday:** In addition to the above items, Saturday Single Day Registrants will receive entry into the Breakfast, as well as participation in the Make & Take Fair and Roundtable Presentations.
- **Guest Fee:** The 2011 National Agriculture in the Classroom Guest Fee allows guests 18 years of age and older to attend selected functions. This fee is for the selected function only and does not include conference materials, daily sessions, or refreshment breaks. Guest fees are not for use by coworkers.
- **Pre Conference Tour Fee:** The 2011 National Agriculture in the Classroom Pre Conference Tour Fee allows conference attendees to attend the Pre Conference Tour on Tuesday, June 21, 2011. This fee includes bus fare, entrance into the event, lunch, and bottled waters.
- **Post Conference Tour Fee:** The 2011 National Agriculture in the Classroom Post Conference Tour Fee allows conference attendees to attend to attend the Post Conference Tour on Saturday, June 25, 2011. This fee includes bus fare, entrance into the event, lunch, and bottled waters.

Ways to Register

Before you begin the registration process, please note which workshops you would like to attend. You will be asked to make selections while registering.

- **Online (Preferred Method):** Click on the Register Now! link below to register online with options to pay by check, invoice, or credit card utilizing a safe and secure line. Before clicking on the *Register Now!* link below, we recommend that you have payment information on-hand, such as credit card, check number or purchase order number, if we are to invoice your institution. Please also have your workshop selections handy, as you will be asked for these while you register.

NOTE: If you do not have access to the internet, contact the Office of Conferences and Institutes at 352.392.5930 or kimmer72@ufl.edu for assistance in registering.

Defer Payment: Should you need to defer registration payment in order to work with your agency's accounting practices please select the invoice option when prompted for payment. This will allow you to register your attendance while providing the flexibility to pay by check at a later date or contact OCI at 352.392.5930 with credit or P-Card information once travel funds are authorized.

Refund Policy: All refund requests must be received in writing by May 20, 2011. No refunds will be issued after this date. A processing fee of \$60 will be deducted from all *Full Conference Registration* refunds, \$10 from all *Guest Registration* refunds, \$10.00 from *Pre- and Post-Conference Tour* refunds, and \$30 from *Single Day Registration* refunds.

Special Needs: Participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting the Office of Conferences & Institutes at least 21 working days prior to the conference. We can be reached by phone at 352.392.5930, by FAX at 352.392.9734, or by calling 800.955.8771 (TDD). The TDD number can only be accessed from within the State of Florida.

Upcoming events:

April 15-16	AITC and Soybean Science Kit Training in Portage
April 15	County Essay Winners due to District Women's Chair
April 27	District Essay Winners due to Darlene from the WFBF Women's committee
April 27	Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Meeting, Stevens Point
April 28	Wisconsin Ag Education and Workforce Development Council, Madison
April 29	State Essay Winner Selection Packet sent to WFBF Women's Committee
May 3-5	National AITC Consortium Board Meeting, Washington DC
May 6	Ballots due back from WFBF Women's Committee
May 16- June 3	District Winner Presentations by Darlene Arneson
June 14-16	Wisconsin FFA Convention
June 15	LifeWorks Expo at Wisconsin FFA Convention
June 21-25	National Ag in the Classroom Conference, Florida
June 26-30	Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators Conference, Green Bay
June 27	Wisconsin Ag Education and Workforce Development Council, Green Bay

Check out www.wisagclassroom.org for other events and information