

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

Website link:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ag in the Classroom Program Announces Essay Topic

MADISON – “Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us” is the topic of the essay contest from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation’s Ag in the Classroom program.

“Our 2014 Book of the Year will be “First Peas to the Table” by Susan Grigsby. The book and essay topic will allow us to educate students about where food comes from, learn about Thomas Jefferson and his gardening research, understanding how plants grow, and making healthy food choices,” said Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. “We will again link the book, the accompanying lessons that we write for our Book of the Year, various Wisconsin educational resources, and other Ag in the Classroom lessons into resources for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.”

Essay submissions 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 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 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 homeroom or class.

The contest is sponsored by the Frontier –Servco FS, We Energies, and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year more than 1,996 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.

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