

2015 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Matching Grant Recipients

PALS Summer Program - Janesville FFA Alumni - \$500

The PALS Summer program provides a variety of activities and educational opportunities for students to explore careers in the field of agriculture and agribusiness as well as instilling the basic skills essential for any career. We will have several guest speakers come to the Janesville Boys & Girls Club to discuss their careers and field trips to enhance the learning experience. We chose to focus on non-traditional agriculture careers. We hope that this one week program will give the kids several different options to consider in the field of agriculture and agribusiness.

The Big Red Barn – Story Book Kids - \$250

The Mosinee School District's 4K classroom at StoryBook Kids received a grant from Agriculture in the Classroom that enabled them to teach lessons about farm life. Items purchased included a wooden barn with animals, books, puzzles, dramatic play clothing and plush animals. Lessons incorporated vocabulary, science, math, health, dramatic play and sensory play. A community connection was made with a visit from a local retired dairy farmer who served scrambled eggs with ham and cheese.

Agriculture Learning Tubs – Vernon County Farm Bureau - \$199

The Vernon County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Program (AITC) is designing agriculture learning tubs for Vernon County. These tubs will focus on dairy, beef, sheep, bees, maple syrup, crops/gardening, Wisconsin fruits and pigs. They will feature hands-on learning activities that are ready for use to offer a unique learning experience for a classroom, after-school program, home-school coop or library program. AITC Coordinator Jacqui Davison said, "Our goal with the tubs is to make them easy to use by providing the resources that teachers need to pick the tubs up and put them into practice with little prep time."

Hydroponic Production – Glenwood City Agriculture Education Program - \$360.67

The Glenwood City agriculture education program, with the help of Ag in the Classroom and the FFA Alumni, developed a unique learning experience for students. Students developed a full-scale hydroponics system in the agriculture classroom and are using it to produce food for the local food pantry. Students developed an understanding of systems in agriculture and how food production via hydroponics is facilitated. The students are thrilled to lend a hand to those who need it in the community!

June Dairy Month – Children's Museum of Eau Claire - \$500

There's no better place to celebrate June Dairy Month than with the Children's Museum of Eau Claire. Children and their grown-ups can snap a picture in the 'Milk Mustache' photo booth, experiment with color exploding milk, hear from Wisconsin's Alice in Dairyland, taste cheese, enjoy an ice cream sundae and even meet a REAL cow and dairy farmer. You'll learn about agriculture, farming, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. Stay tuned, too, for an exciting announcement about Oreo the cow! Visit www.cmec.ccor fund us on Facebook to see the full programming schedule.

Need H2O to Help Us Grow! – Pineview Elementary School Garden – \$500

'Need H2O to Help Us Grow!' In terms of growing fruits and vegetables in a garden tended mainly by students, easily accessible running water is vital to our ongoing success. Ten raised beds, three tiers of garden space totaling 145' x 90', dozens of staff members and hundreds of enthusiastic students are just some of the reasons why this project is greatly needed. We've got the SOIL, the SUN and the SUPPORT of many organizations. An AITC grant is a SOURCE that can help us take the next STEP and move from the classroom out to the garden SUCCESSFULLY!

Interactive Agricultural Center – River Valley School Fair - \$500

New at this year's River Valley School Fair will be an extension of the agricultural educational components offered for elementary age students such as 'A Day in the Life of a Farmer' and a craft center. The River Valley School fair committee and River Valley FFA in collaboration with the RVSD staff will be offering more events for the students during the hours of the School Fair on Friday, September 25. Please join us with your children at the petting zoo and interactive agricultural education center for some fun while learning about how food is grown in your community.

Making Cereal – Grant County Farm Bureau/Vesperman Farms -\$500

Grant County Farm Bureau and Vesperman Farms are partnering together to create a great display showing how whole oats are turned into your breakfast oatmeal. "We want to show people the connection between that bowl that sits in front of them every morning and the field they drive by on their way to work," said Kyle Vesperman manager of Vesperman Farms. The display can be seen at Vesperman Farms during their fall season mid-September through October and at different events through the year with Grant County Farm Bureau.

2015 Cows on the Concourse – Cows on the Concourse - \$500

Cows on the Concourse will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2015 in Madison from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. An annual event to kick off June Dairy Month in Dane County, Cows on the Concourse is a 'dairy good' time for the whole family. Located just off the downtown Madison's Capitol Square, this free event is fun for the whole family! Only Cows on the Concourse gives kids and adults the unique opportunity to get close to cows and bay calves, enjoy hot grilled cheese sandwiches, chug ice cold milk, and learn from Wisconsin dairy farmers.

Butterfly Garden – Manz Elementary School - \$ 500

The Butterfly Garden at Manz Elementary School is a place where students, staff and community members can enjoy a peaceful, reflective place to learn about the lives of butterflies. The garden provides the opportunity for people of all ages to appreciate the outdoors while being surrounded by plants, flowers, birds and butterflies. Students have a place for an outdoor classroom and participate through hands-on activities in the beautification and upkeep of the garden.

Farm 2 School – Kewaskum Elementary School - \$500

We are pleased to announce the Farm to School Program of the Kewaskum School District has received a grant from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation of \$500 which will be matched with funding already raised by Best You Food Force in collaboration with the Kewaskum School District. The Kewaskum Farm to School Program provides education which includes 'Farmer in the Classroom' lessons, the vegetable of the month tastings, school garden planting and harvesting and taking field trips to local farms. This program enables students to see the value of farming and learn how the food gets from the farm to their plates.

Perennial Garden – James Williams Middle School Science Classrooms - \$ 500

For the past two school years, all seventh and eighth grade science students at James Williams Middle School have literally been digging into science through unique hands-on field designed curriculum within their life, earth, physical and environmental science classes. The middle school science teachers have been teaching science topics all while designing and implementing an interpretative nature trail located on the west side of JWMS. This school year an extension of the project has been started. A perennial garden and animal shelters that pollinators will utilize are being made by the same students. The goal of this project is to educate the youth about the importance of pollinators for gardening and agricultural purposes.

Fair Ag Tent – Grant County Farm Bureau YFA - \$500

Grant County Farm Bureau YFA has created an educational, fun and interactive Ag Tent for the Grant County Fair. In the tent, you can test your knowledge on Wisconsin agriculture and take home a prize. Look around and soak up all the exciting farm facts our tent offers. Kids can enjoy some arts and craft time or maybe hear a short story. Anyone can enjoy cheese samples and then don't forget to pet the calf or practice milking a cow.

Hands-On the Wisconsin Maple Industry – Sun Prairie High School Agricultural Education - \$500

The Sun Prairie High School agriculture program is developing a maple syrup production program where students will identify and tap trees, collect sap, learn the evaporation process of making maple syrup and analyze finished product. This hands-on connection to agriculture production gives the student real-life experiences they can utilize throughout their lives.

Hatching Poultry Egg-sperts Resource Library – School for Agricultural & Environmental Studies (SAGES) -\$500

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road? A: To 'egg-spand' it's knowledge!

Increasing agricultural awareness of poultry is 'egg-actly' what learners at the School for Agricultural & Environmental Studies (SAGES), a K-8 project-based, public charter school in Fox Lake, will be doing with the books, models and manipulatives in the school's new poultry resource library. SAGES has recently built a chicken coop on school grounds and with students caring for the birds and collecting eggs. The resource library serves as a tool to 'Hatch Poultry Egg-sperts' that can identify problems and determine solutions.

Food for America – Watertown FFA Chapter - \$500

Watertown FFA receives Farm Bureau Grant: The Watertown FFA has recently received the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Matching Grant. This grant will be used to help develop a strong Food for America Program. The Food for America Program is geared towards fourth grade students to teach them about the importance of agriculture.

Chicken Coop and Mini-Barn – Merrimac Community Charter School - \$500

Merrimac Community Charter School will be adding a small, solar-powered barnyard in the summer of 2015. This will be an expansion of our current poultry coop, where we hope to add additional laying hens and sheep. One of our objectives is to increase the opportunity for our students to work with agriculture in a very tangible way, daily. This expansion is made possible by the Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Merrimac Home and School Club, the Merrimac Village board and numerous community partnerships.

Growin' Leaders in the Garden – Brodhead FFA - \$500

Grown' Leaders in the Garden! That's just what students are going to become when they dig in to this 21-day summer school course offered by the FFA advisor and her members. From planting to picking, with a few taste tests in-between, students in grades first through sixth will be amazed at how many ways gardens affect their lives. Planting in the school garden, working in the FFA greenhouse, and taking time to cook in the kitchen are all part of the lesson plans where younger students will be paired with FFA members to experience gardening and all that goes along with it. Grade level appropriate math and reading skills will be the main academic focus of the summer school course, with gardening as the real-life example.