

2016 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Matching Grants Recipients

Marathon County Commodities Interactive Board - Partnership for Progressive Agriculture - \$500

The Partnership for Progressive Agriculture would like to build an interactive board that is the shape of Marathon County. This board would be large, durable and very colorful. Marathon County has a variety of different commodities like: dairy, beef, corn, cranberries, ginseng and honey just to name a few. The board will have the basic commodities pictured or have physical samples of the commodity on the front and we would like to have either lift up attachments for more facts or possibly a slide door feature. Ideally, we would like to make this interchangeable to update or change facts as needed. Children are very hands-on and anything that can catch their attention and provide education is our main goal.

Sun Prairie High School Agricultural Education – Aeroponics \$500

This grant will provide supplies to develop curriculum around learning how aeroponics systems work. Growing different plants through a unique system. Comparing Aeroponics to different types of growing techniques which we already utilize such as aquaponics, hydroponics and conventional greenhouse. Students will be engaged in plant system technologies and understanding how new technology can be implemented into growing more food using less resources.

Day on the Farm – Stevens Point FFA - \$500

Day on the Farm will take place on May 6 and 500 elementary students and teachers will come to the farm. There, senior high students from the large animal classes will have stations where they will present 35 to 40 different topics and processes. The presentations will include traditional farm topics of how to milk a cow, feeding calves and machinery safety to nontraditional concepts including butter making, agricultural by-products and small animal handling and care. The elementary kids will be taken from station to station by Stevens Point FFA members learning about all the topics. Presentations will include hands-on activities to allow the youth to learn the lessons. This strategy increases their engagement, thus the knowledge gained by the elementary students. The focus is to illustrate the importance of agriculture and its role in their everyday life.

Home Grown in Wisconsin – StoryBook Kids - \$500

The proposed learning center will be placed underneath a newly constructed reading loft in the classroom. This area will be an ideal location for a rotating theme. To have a focal point with a theme will be effective in teaching. I would like to have an agricultural theme as the first use of the loft's learning center area. The learning center has an entrance and an exit. The space will be organized by three distinct areas. One area will hold the books with a spot for reading. Near this will be a small brown floor rug to represent a plot of land that has been tilled and is ready for planting, along with storage bins for the farming toys and puppets. Toward the exit, I would have a tub to hold the food items, magnifying glasses and other hand tools. The purpose of this area is to encourage inquiry about the crops, allowing students to handle and explore them. The last area will be the wall space where posters and student drawings can be displayed and small shelving unit for 3D art. We would have students draw a map of their crop fields to display. We would also have them work with clay to create an image of the crop they would grow. Young children learn best through play and collaboration. For one example, we visited the DuBay Cranberry bog early this school year. We can recall those experiences with photographs, cranberries and harvesting toys. Much of our extended learning will be verbal exchanges. As we use the learning center, we will share during our circle time about the things we are seeing and doing. After we look at a certain crop, we will use our journals to write vocabulary words.

F.E.D.S. (Farming Education and Demonstrations in Schools) – Wood County Land and Water Conservation Council - \$500

Working in land and water conservation departments, the same topic keeps coming up over and over, the loss of education and disconnect of the public to agriculture. There is a great need to properly educate students about the agricultural community that surrounds them every day. Wood County and Portage County have numerous farms which residents pass almost daily, yet the closest connection most residents have to farms comes when they walk into a grocery store. F.E.D.S. would utilize this untapped agricultural education opportunity. We would purchase the Ag in the Classroom tote full of educational supplies and lesson plans. Our time and energy would be focused on promoting agricultural literacy and getting into schools to reconnect to the agricultural understandings that Wisconsin was built on. By using this education tote and lesson plans, we would get into classrooms quicker because we wouldn't have to develop lesson plans. The classes and lesson plans already created are solid agricultural education programs that will benefit all involved. We feel if we offer numerous classes, we stand a better chance of catching a teacher and/or schools attention and getting agriculture education in front of students for many years in the future.

AgVenture Tent – Taylor County Farm Bureau - \$500

Ag Venture Tent is full of information on value of agriculture in Wisconsin and how Wisconsin agriculture affects everyone. This year we are looking at adding an area that will have information on where the meat we eat comes from and the role it plays in our nutrition. We are looking to set up video on how pigs and beef are raised and the steps it takes to get to you. A scale model of a farm will be setup with posters and books on raising meat animals and the value they are to Wisconsin agriculture. There will be interactive games and questions on the information that was in the tent and if they answer correct they will get a prize.

FFA PALS Program – Janseville FFA PALS - \$500

This year we plan to introduce the kids in the PALS program to the country of Haiti and a glimpse into life there. We will have a very special opportunity to teach the kids at the club about agriculture in Haiti and in Wisconsin. We have several farmers in Rock County who have traveled to Haiti to assist in teaching them how to grow food and improve their water quality. Each lesson we do this year will offer information about agriculture in Haiti on same topic. We will have guest speakers come to the Janesville Boys and Girls Club to discuss their experiences and work in Haiti, most of which has been agricultural. For example, a unit on swine will teach them how and why pigs are raised here in Rock County, and how they are raised in Haiti. We will discuss the differences between the two. We want the kids to realize the global impact of agriculture. I have attached a last year's schedule so that you can see the type of units we typically explore with the kids.

2016 Cows on the Concourse – Cows on the Concourse - \$500

Cows on the Concourse is the official kick-off of June Dairy Month in Dane County. This free event brings dairy downtown as two herds of cattle make the trip to Madison's Capitol Square. **Consumers can get face-to-face with the animals** (of several breeds and ages) as well as farmers and learn about the work that goes into Wisconsin's high quality dairy foods. The event, which runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2016 also features several other education opportunities:

-Ed'Moo'cation Zone: Learn about dairy farming and dairy foods through science projects, crafts, games and more.

-Get Mooving Fun & Fitness Zone: Discover how dairy products and exercise are part of a healthy lifestyle.

-Scavenger Hunt: Visit all of the Cows on the Concourse Zones to learn dairy facts and ear a free t-shirt if you successfully find answers to all of the questions.

-Saturday Science: a great addition in 2012 that has been continued into 2016, hop aboard a free trolley and head to the UW-Madison campus to dive into the science behind dairy. This project is possible through a partnership with the UW Institutes for Discovery.

Incubation/life cycles – Two Rivers Public Schools - \$500

Incubating poultry eggs will involve students in motivational hands-on learning. Students will learn about the parts of an egg, the vocabulary associated with life-cycles and be able to visualize the embryo through candling. Students will also keep a scientific notebook of the incubation project thus, incorporating literacy, math and science concepts. Because we believe that learning is social, students will also be sharing their thinking, presenting their understanding of content material as well as creating visual representations of the process. Students will also learn the difference between the breeds of chickens; for example, commercial and free range raising of chickens. Lastly, students will look within the economy of the poultry industry and how the process works from egg to distribution.

School Garden – Dodgeville School District - \$400

Our project consists of planting and maintaining a school garden and orchard. We have four planter boxes made with donations provided by the parent teacher circle. What we are looking to provide a planter box for each grade level. Teachers will present lessons involving farming in Wisconsin. Then each grade level will decide what they would like to plant, start the seedlings in their classroom, and then transfer them to the planter box. Over the summer the students will be responsible for maintaining their plants. When it is time for harvest, the students will pick the produce and consume them as snacks or they will put them into the school lunch program. This project will raise agriculture awareness by having students appreciate the process and hard work it takes to grow food.

Stewards of the Earth Project – Eagle Christian School - \$500

There are two main parts to our project. The first part is to start a school garden in which students are actively involved with both tending and harvesting the fruits and vegetables that will be used in their own breakfast and lunch programs. This will involve all our students from 4K through twelfth grade. They will learn how to plant and care for a garden and reap the benefits of this in their daily meals both in fresh form and in canned form during the colder months of the year.

The second portion of this project will be to educate them in agricultural practices of our region by taking them on learning trips to local farms where we will be sourcing much of the food for their school meals programs. On these trips, they will learn the farming practices used to raise cattle and produce much of the dairy products they will be eating and drinking in their own cafeteria. We believe that by educating and involving our students in this project in a hands-on way, their knowledge and appreciation of food production will be greatly enhanced, and it will encourage them to consider the sources of their food, and hopefully to choose locally-produced foods whenever possible.

Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop – Walworth County Fair Barnyard Adventure - \$500

The Barnyard Adventure area is a hands-on ag learning segment of the annual Walworth County Fair. As the fair attracts more than 132,000 people, the Barnyard Adventure Learning Coop will be an integral continuum focused on daily-scheduled ag-related topics; such as beekeeping, hydroponics and gardening practices, poultry and from garden to table healthy eating cooking demonstrations. Offering this wide range of topics will broaden young fair guests' awareness of the many areas of agriculture that are part of everyday living and survival. Hands-on opportunities; such as, viewing a working beehive under glass, cooking with vegetables directly picked and prepared from the Barnyard Adventure garden, connecting with soil and plants to create home gardens are a few of the many presentations scheduled during the six-day Walworth County Fair. The Learning Coop tent will be strategically placed in the Kiddieland area of the fair, certain to attract young families looking to take a break from the hustle and bustle and enjoy an opportunity to learn, explore agriculture diversity and have fun in a relaxing environment.

Ag in the Classroom Supplies – Portage County Farm Bureau - \$500

By purchasing the Soybean Science Kit, students can learn all the products made with soybeans. It comes with lesson plans so the teachers will easily be able to incorporate it into their classroom. By having our own kit in the county we can promote it to local schools. Students will learn that soybeans are not just used as animal feed, but have many other uses. By allocating some of the funds for awards for the winning school for the essay contest this will get more essays. We would like to create a tote with the previous Books of the Year and the curriculum associate with it. If a school has the winning essay more than one year, we will provide them with additional supplies and curriculum. By providing the resources it will make it easier to get our agriculture lesson plans into the school. As our county Farm Bureau grows their Ag in the Classroom program we would like to give presentations at elementary schools. Through this we can share first-hand life on the farm and how agriculture is all around us. We would use the funds to buy supplies for hands-on activities for these visits. We have thought about organizing a day on the farm and would use funding to pay for transportation of the students to the farm.

Discover Agriculture – Sauk County Ag in the Classroom - \$500

With a team of 6-10 volunteers, the second-grade Discover Agriculture Presentation series contacts more than 750 second students throughout Sauk County with classroom presentations. In all, we visit a total of 38 classrooms five times a year. We provide five school districts and seven parochial schools with essay resource materials and rules. This includes purchasing copies of the Book of the Year for each of the 24 schools. Adding home school groups to our presentation series is in our future plan, allowing us to introduce agriculture to even more students.

2016 On-Farm Event – Chippewa Valley Farm -City Day -\$350

The Farm-City Day event is aimed to educate our community on where and how our food is produced, showing how agriculture has evolved and progressed over the last 50 years. Farm-City Day became a two-day event in 2013 to provide education for both the public and school children during two separate events. On Friday, more than 400 students, teachers and chaperones tour the farm, learning how to milk cows, grow crops, what a cow eats (dairy nutrition), oil and water conservation practices, fire and tractor safety and energy saving tips. This experience is geared towards third and fourth grade students studying Wisconsin agriculture in the classroom. By visiting a farm, we hope the students will get a better idea of what farm-life is like and learn to appreciate the many facets of Wisconsin agriculture. On Saturday, the event is open to community members including children and adults. They will partake in guided wagon tours of the farm, learn from a variety of agricultural educational displays, and participate in hands-on projects to gain more knowledge about agriculture in their community and in Wisconsin. Last year, we also included a 5k walk/run, titled the Farmer Frolic, which was coordinated by Wisconsin Farm Bureau YFA members. Their goal was to educate the community on the role of agriculture and health. This relationship-building, educational on-farm event is growing larger each year, and we are asking for funding to support this continued growth when it will be hosted by Alfalawn Farms in Dunn County on September 9-10, 2016.