



Ag in the Classroom ideas for Extension and 4-H

Training options

An overview of Ag in the Classroom and the resources we offer should be a part of any training. There is so much and in so many places that it will help both adult and youth leaders be able to customize their activities!

- Part of another 4-H training - offer an AITC section with hands-on activities that can be done at club meetings. This includes a variety of activities that can be done with cloverbuds, explorers, for June Dairy Month or other project areas.
- A science-based training and workshop - focus on the Soybean Science Kits that are placed around the state and available to use. We also have some excellent STEM activities. These can be incorporated into a variety of project areas.
- Training on how to set up an 'Ag Venture' at their fair. How to plan, get supplies for and carry out a half-day, one-day or multi-day activity for fairgoers.
- Farm fact focus - using the WFBF Farm Facts and AFBF Facts, explore fun ways for a 4-H club to offer a trivia contest, quiz bowl or informational/interactive display or activity.
- 4-H Week - review AITC activities that can be done to help celebrate 4-H Week and be a part of community outreach for a club.
- 4-H county-wide ag focus event - can be a youth leader led day with a variety of activities, share sessions, hands-on projects and other activities for youth in the county. Could also offer a career section for older youth.
- Food and AITC - connecting some of our fun food-related AITC activities into the foods project area, a food event or demonstrations that can be done at meetings
- Fair display prep - AITC resources can be used when making barn displays, educating the non-farm public at the fair and helping to counter some misconceptions about agriculture.
- An older youth event that focuses on careers in agriculture, STEM and natural resources. Could connect with the agriculture education/FFA departments on this.

THE FOLLOW-UP>>>> GETTING THEM TO THE FAIR!

What are you offering at the fair?

For Teachers

Do you have any displays, areas or sections that focus on educational exhibits?

Can you offer tours for teachers? Consider showing them some of the student's exhibits to give them ideas of what they can have students do for classroom projects.

Would one of your 4-H leaders or agriculture education instructors be a tour guide for teachers?

Can they get a pass to come to the fair- or free parking?

Are there ways for the teacher to encourage their students from the previous year to attend the fair? Is there an activity they can do? Picnic area?

For Students

Can you offer tours for kids? Consider showing them some of the student's exhibits to give them ideas of what they can have students do for classroom projects.

Would one of your 4-H youth leaders or FFA members be a tour guide for teachers?

Are there group or individual activities that can be offered?

Bring back something from the classroom presentation that needs to be turned in. (i.e. coloring sheet, form, survey)

AgVenture- petting zoo- kiddie barn – hands-on activities

Conduct a scavenger hunt around the fairgrounds.

Popular Fair Activities One day or the entire fair?

AgVenture Day - setting up a series of booths or tables with hands-on activities.

Petting Zoos or Kiddie Barns - displays that will be up throughout your fair. Consider the signage as you look at these displays. Is there information for various age levels- lower elementary, elementary, middle school, high school and adults?

Educational Areas - having one area or series of booths that have educational activities. Rotate the groups that are staffing the area if volunteers are short.

Financing these activities - sponsors, cooperating groups, community foundations, grants and, if school related, is there funding?