

Ag in the Classroom and Pre-Service Students - 2019

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers a variety of educational resources, activities, and events for pre-service students. I serve as the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom coordinator and the state contact for the National Ag in the Classroom Program. I work out of Wisconsin Farm Bureau and develop some lessons and educational resources myself, work with our Wisconsin commodity groups in sharing their lessons and also work with the National Ag in the Classroom, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and national agricultural groups and agencies who offer resources for teachers and students.

I am more than willing to visit with you about our program and offerings. I also would love to visit some of your classes, speak to a student group, or make other contact with your students. Just send me an email and we can explore some possibilities!

Here's a little more about Ag in the Classroom.

About Ag in the Classroom

Agriculture in the Classroom is a grassroots program coordinated nationally by the United States Department of Agriculture. The goal of the program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies. The program is carried out in each state, according to state needs and interests, by individuals representing farm organizations, agribusiness, education and government. In Wisconsin, Ag in the Classroom is staffed and coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. Program activities are carried out in partnership with numerous agricultural organizations, businesses and government agencies.

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The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program is jointly funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and support for other agricultural partners.

Purpose

The purpose of the Agriculture in the Classroom program is to provide teachers and students K-12 with an understanding of how their food is produced. Ag in the Classroom seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry. Some of the concepts Ag in the Classroom emphasizes are agriculture and history; the geography of agriculture; agriculture and technology; the economics of agriculture; agriculture and the world; careers in agriculture; and agriculture and public policy. The Ag in the Classroom program is carried out in each state by educators, volunteers and representatives from agricultural organizations and businesses. In Wisconsin, the program utilizes a network of local volunteers across the state. The USDA supports the state effort by providing coordination, program ideas, and materials and by maintaining a nationwide network of individuals and organizations that actively support the Ag in the Classroom mission.

How Ag in the Classroom Can Help Student Teachers

Ag in the Classroom can provide you with lesson plans, hands-on activities, guest speakers, tours and field trips, and other educational resources that will fit into curriculum. Agriculture provides teachers with a wide variety of activities that will make learning fun, realistic and exciting for their students! Twelve percent of Wisconsin's population works in an agricultural related field, so it is important for students to have a basic understanding of where their food comes from, how the food and fiber industry works and what agriculture

is all about! Ag in the Classroom offers many important resources, website references, hands-on activities and other tools that will be helpful to teachers. As with many resources, many will be updated so you will want to check the websites or source to make sure you're using the most current information. Many of the items can be found at wisagclassroom.org or by contacting Darlene Arneson.

Websites- there are three website homepages that you may want to take time to explore.

- Wisconsin Farm Bureau – Ag in the Classroom – wisagclassroom.org. This website is your link to Wisconsin resources. All current applications, grants, essay contest information, newsletters and other resources will also be found there.
- USDA Ag in the Classroom – www.agclassroom.org – This website is the National Ag in the Classroom's and has a vast array of resources. Take time to explore the curriculum matrix, visit other state's websites and see what they have to offer, and check out Growing a Nation- the story of American agriculture.
- American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture- www.agfoundation.org – The American Farm Bureau has a vast array of resources. Make sure you check the training and grant opportunities, contests, White-Reinhardt Fund applications and the resources that are available.

Order Forms- You will find Resource and Children's Book order forms from the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program. Note that the forms may be updated during the year- the website will have the most current version. If you are in need of funds for resources, contact your local county Farm Bureau. Many counties are interested in helping supply resources to teachers.

Where to find help!

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is as close as your telephone or computer! Check our website (wisagclassroom.org) and watch our Facebook page: [facebook.com/WIAGintheClassroom](https://www.facebook.com/WIAGintheClassroom)

But the program also attends teacher's conventions, provide summer teacher training opportunities, a summer bus tour, conducts information meetings and many presentations at meetings, conferences and in-services throughout the year.

When students get a permanent teaching job

- **Get on our contact list**
Be sure to contact Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom to be added to the mailing list for teacher newsletters, summer teacher training information and other updates. They can simply email the state coordinator with their contact information.
- **Teacher Mini Grants and Ag in the Classroom Matching Grants**
The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is offering grants up to \$100 each to pre-school through high school teachers to fund projects that promote agricultural literacy in the classroom. Grants can be used for innovative lessons, activities, projects, resources, presentations, school fairs and other projects. Projects should focus on integrating agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas. Priority will be given to applicants for resources that will last more than one school year as opposed to funds for field trips, consumables and 'one-time' use. We also have Matching Grants that can be up to \$500 for agricultural related activities. This is open to schools, groups, organizations, museums...
- **Watch for training opportunities**
Wisconsin AITC offers a variety of different training opportunities during the year including summer training bus trips and day long classes, soybean science kit workshops, AITC information meetings, workshops at Wisconsin FFA Convention and occasional workshop presentations at various area teacher's conventions.
- **Outstanding Teacher Award Application**
The Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom program annually recognizes a Wisconsin teacher or a teaching team for their achievements in teaching students the importance of agriculture while integrating agricultural concepts across the curriculum. The goal of teaching youth about agriculture is to help students acquire enough knowledge to function effectively as agriculturally literate citizens supportive of wise agricultural policies and programs. Certified teachers currently engaged in classroom instruction at the pre-K through 12 levels.