



February 2019
**Ag in the Classroom Newsletter for
our Ag in the Classroom Teachers
and Home School Parents!**

Matching Grants are due March 1

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program has matching grants available to groups and organizations that conduct agricultural literacy projects. Applications are due by March 1 and can be downloaded at www.wisagclassroom.org or by contacting Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com.

Book of the Year and Essay Contest for 2018-2019

The 2019 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year, "Fresh-Picked Poetry," is written by Michelle Schaub of Illinois.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the book of the year for fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout the state. This year's essay contest topic is, **"Making it happen at the Farmers' Market."** Accompanying lessons aligned to state standards and various Wisconsin educational resources are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

Essay submissions must be 100-to-300 words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/whats-new. **Essays are due April 1.**

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Promotion and Education Committee. Each district winner will receive a presentation for their classroom. The essay contest is sponsored by We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year, more than 2,500 students participated in the contest.

Where to find what you need?

Book order forms:

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/teachers-information/childrens-books/>

Essay Contest information:

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/teachers-information/essay-contest/>

Ag in the Classroom Resources:

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/teachers-information/order-forms/>



2019 National Conference

June 18-21, 2019

Little Rock, Arkansas

<https://www.agclassroom.org/conferences/index.cfm>

Registration and hotel information is online now!

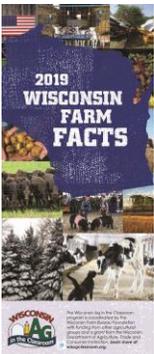
The value of attending the National Ag in the Classroom Conference

The National Ag in the Classroom Conference is an opportunity for volunteers, teachers and staff involved in agricultural literacy to learn about new resources, share ideas and experiences and network with others involved in agricultural education. The conference location rotates between the four regions in the National Ag in the Classroom consortium. The 2019 National Conference will be June 18-21 in Little Rock, AR.

The conference offers a variety of workshops, mini-workshops and traveling workshops for participants to attend. The topics vary from commodity education to teaching techniques to subject oriented options. The workshops are offered several times during the conference. The traveling workshops (or tours) offered by the conference offer participants an opportunity to learn about production agriculture, agri-businesses, food systems, the green industry and other aspects of agriculture. The tours will vary from location to location which offers unique opportunities to learn about agriculture in that region. Other experiences at the conference will be great speakers, luncheons in which Outstanding Teachers and Grant recipients are recognized, an exhibit area and other informal social activities. There are so many ways for people to network and share ideas at the conference.

I have found that each of the conferences I've attended have really helped me learn a great deal, built my enthusiasm, expanded my network of partners and helped me set goals for our state program. It is amazing the difference in programming across the country, resources that are available, how Ag in the Classroom local programs connect with schools, partnerships that have developed and activities conducted on state and local levels.

I hope that teachers, staff working in agricultural or commodity education and volunteers involved in Ag in the Classroom will consider the opportunity to attend and that other groups, organizations and businesses in their area will support their efforts.



The 2019 Wisconsin Farm Facts are available!
We also have the updated Farm Fact book marks. This year's special section is on animal agriculture in Wisconsin. They are **FREE!**

Summer Ag in the Classroom 2019 Trainings

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom will offer three summer training opportunities for teachers and volunteers. Attendees will learn to incorporate agricultural concepts into their curricula, network with fellow educators and obtain free resources for students and classrooms. Teachers of all grade levels and subject areas, home school parents, pre-service students and volunteers are encouraged to attend. For more information any of these training opportunities, contact the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com. To register for any of these events, visit wisagclassroom.org and click on the 'What's New' icon.

Summer Bus Tour

The annual Summer Bus Tour in Taylor County on July 15-16. The cost is \$75 per person and opportunities for credit will be offered. This year's stops include: Crass Sawmill, Inc., Medford High School Agriculture Department and Barn, Hemlock Hills Trophy Ranch, LLC (elk), Stone Acres Farm (CSA and pizza), Heil Ginseng Inc., Riesterer & Schnell John Deere dealership, Peissig's JTP Robotic Dairy, and Meyer Manufacturing Corp. This annual tour is perfect for teachers of all grade levels and subject areas, Ag in the Classroom volunteers, UW-Extension and 4-H staff and leaders and others who want to learn about Wisconsin agriculture. The tour is limited to 50 participants. The registration deadline is June 14.

Day Training Madison

The first one-day session will be on Tuesday, July 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the West Madison Research Station and O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research & Education Facility on the west side of Madison. The training will begin at the West Madison Research Station and presenters from Wisconsin Beef Council, Wisconsin Pork Association, Discover Mediaworks, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and selection of the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's Book of the Year will occur. In the afternoon, the group will travel to the O.J. Noer facility for a tour, observing various types of grasses, hands-on activity using hand-held reflectance meters and soil moisture probes, grass identification and soil textural classification and learning about the new two-year Farm & Industry Short Course turf management program at UW-Madison. The registration deadline is June 30.

Day Training Green Bay

The second one-day session will be on Wednesday, July 31, from 9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay. This one-day training will feature presentations by the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and Brown County Dairy Promotions. A tour of the Neville Public Museum and their resources will be part of the afternoon program. There will also be an overview of the resources available through Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, National Ag in the Classroom, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The registration deadline is July 15.



Ag in the Classroom Summer Classroom Training

Summer Bus Tour – July 15-16, 2019 – Taylor County

Join Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom for a fun and exciting two-day adventure visiting various Wisconsin farms, processors and agricultural businesses. We welcome classroom teachers, home school parents, 4-H and extension staff, volunteers and others involved in agricultural literacy to participate.

This year's stops include: Crass Sawmill, Inc., Medford High School Agriculture Department and Barn, Hemlock Hills Trophy Ranch, LLC (elk), Stone Acres Farm (CSA and pizza), Heil Ginseng Inc., Riesterer & Schnell John Deere dealership, Peissig's JTP Robotic Dairy, and Meyer Manufacturing Corp. Details about each venue can be found on the website.

Space is limited to 50 participants. Your spot is secured with the registration and payment! A commitment of attending both days and riding on the bus is required. Some attire and photo restrictions are at some venues. There is a **\$75 registration** fee includes two noon and one evening meal, bus cost, entry fees and snacks. Hotel expense and additional purchases at venues are on your own. A block of rooms has been reserved under Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom at the Boarders Inn and Suites in Medford. Call 715.748.2330 to make a reservation and get the group rate. You are not committed to stay at this hotel but the bus will depart/return from it each day. Parking is available for all participants at the hotel for those who don't stay. Graduate credits are available through Concordia University Wisconsin. Registration materials can be found at wisagclassroom.org. For more information, contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wbf.com or 608.828.5644.

Ag in the Classroom Summer Classroom Bus Tour- Due June 14

Name _____ County _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____ Grade Level _____

If you aren't a teacher, what is your profession? _____

___ Please send me information about graduate credits. Any dietary restrictions? _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Checks made to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

Send order to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705-0550

Found. Code: 991068

Or you can pay by credit card:

Step 1: Fill out form and save to your computer. Press SUBMIT to email this form to the Farm Bureau office.
Step 2: Click here to complete payment.

2019 Wisconsin Farm Bureau – Ag in the Classroom Tour Stops

Crass Sawmill, Inc. in Medford

Located five miles east of Medford, Crass Sawmill will show how logs are made into lumber. They will also explain every part of a log. Topics covered will be bark, sawdust, wood chips, raw lumber and cants. They will also cover the various species of trees and what they are used for.

Keep in mind: Closed toe shoes required. Crass will provide ear plugs for participants.

Medford Agriculture Department and Barn

The MASH Agriculture Department has a new addition of a barn facility on MASH Campus since Fall 2018. The facility, located within walking distance from the main buildings, includes a classroom, two bathrooms, animal stalls, a shop, high tunnel greenhouse and a second barn facility with more animal housing. Students walk to the barn for class every school day and are able to have hands-on labs with livestock and companion animals. Come see what the students at MASH can take for electives in the agriculture department. Learn more at <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/dpi-connected/bringing-barn-school>

Hemlock Hills Trophy Ranch, LLC in Medford- <http://hemlockhillstrophyranch.com/>

Hemlock Hills Trophy Ranch has been raising elk for more than 10 years. They raise elk for meat products, velvet antler, hard antler, and trophy bulls. Hemlock also has several rare white elk on their ranch.

Stoney Acres Farm CSA in Athens- <http://stoneyacresfarm.net/>

Stoney Acres is a third-generation family farm in their 14th season of production. They are located in North Central Wisconsin (near Athens) and have a highly diversified, certified organic farm which includes a 20-week Community Supported Agriculture Program. They offer vegetables, herbs, fruit and have flour production along with grass fed beef, pastured pork and eggs, organic grains. Stoney Acres also offers farm-to-table pizzas and farm-brewed beer from April to November.

Keep in mind: We will enjoy the Monday night meal at Stoney Acres. AITC will provide pop and water. If you want an alcoholic beverage during the social/shop time, you must pay for it.

Heil Ginseng Inc. in Edgar- <https://heilharvest.com/>

Heil Ginseng, Inc. is located in the heart of the Wisconsin Ginseng growing region. The farming headquarters is located south of the Village of Edgar. Each summer they work with thousands of acres of land. They raise Wisconsin Ginseng, corn, wheat, rye and sunflowers. Heil processes, bags and delivers corn and sunflowers to outlets in central and northern Wisconsin. Heil Ginseng, Inc is the only grower with the rights to use the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin seal on their retail line products called "Heil Harvest." This assures their customers that they are purchasing 100% American Wisconsin Ginseng.

Reisterer & Schnell- John Deere Dealership in Stratford - <https://www.rands.com/>

Reisterer & Schnell is a John Deere dealership with a Stratford location. They will cover the different careers they offer in sales, service manager, service technician, parts manager and parts representatives and their role. They also will show the various different products they work on and sell.

Keep in mind: Closed toe shoes required.

Peissig's JTP Robotic Dairy in Dorchester -<https://www.delaval.com/en-us/about-us/the-navigator2/farm-of-the-month/jtp-farms/>

Peissig's is a family dairy milking 300 cows utilizing four robots and robotic calf feeding. They focus on labor and sustainability.

Meyer Manufacturing Corp. in Dorchester - <http://www.meyermfg.com/>

Meyer Manufacturing Corp produces forage boxes, Total Mixed Ration (TMR) mixers and manure spreaders for the agriculture market.



Ag in the Classroom Summer Classroom Training

Tuesday, July 9, 2019 • 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

West Madison Research Station and O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research & Education Facility

Join us for a day learning about educational agricultural resources for all grade levels! We welcome classroom teachers, home school parents, 4-H and extension staff and volunteers and others involved in agricultural literacy to participate. Registration materials can be found at wisagclassroom.org. **The registration deadline is June 30.** Cost is \$25 which includes lunch, refreshments and materials. For more information, contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5644.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30-9:00 | Arrive at West Madison Research Station (8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona, WI 53593) and register |
| 9:00-9:30 | Welcome, introductions, Book of the Year selection process |
| 9:30-10:00 | Discover Mediaworks Programs and Lessons – Todd Maahs |
| 10:30-11:00 | Wisconsin Beef Council resources – Tammy Vaassen |
| 11:00–11:30 | Wisconsin Pork Association resources – Mandy Masters |
| 11:30-12noon | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin resources – Karen Doster |
| 12:00-1:00 | Lunch and Book of the Year Discussion |
| 1:00–1:15 | Travel to O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility Research and Education |
| 1:15-3:30 | Presentations, tour and hands-on activities about Soil Science and Turf Management - Bruce Schweiger and Dr. Doug Soldat |
| 3:30–4:00 | Final discussion and adjourn |

Questions? Contact Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com. Space is limited so register today!

Locations: The **West Madison Agricultural Research Station** is a 535-acre diverse station with strong plant breeding and horticultural aspect as well as agronomic crops to feed the livestock on campus. They compost organic waste streams from UW-Madison campus (manure, food and greenhouse wastes) on the station and turn it into soil amendment/turf fertilizer. They have a 6-acre public display garden with 1,000s of ornamental bedding plants under evaluation and several fruit crops including apples, blueberries, raspberries and grapes and countless vegetables on display. Learn more at: <https://westmadison.ars.wisc.edu/>

What gets studied at the **O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility** touches the lives – or rather the feet – of virtually everyone in the state. The O.J. Noer facility was developed by the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association in partnership with the UW Foundation and Agricultural Research Stations in the early 1990s, opening in 1992. The station started with 13 acres; three more were added in the late 1990s and an additional 10 were added in the early 2000s to accommodate a growing need for research space. Researchers use the Noer facility to compare different turfgrass varieties, mowing practices, equipment and strategies for fertilizer, irrigation and pest management. We will look at everything from low-input "no mow" grasses to grasses that are mowed five or more days a week at a height of only 3 mm. Hands on activities could include data collection using hand-held reflectance meters and soil moisture probes. We will also talk about grass identification and soil textural classification. We are also discuss a new two-year certificate program for turfgrass management in the Farm and Industry Short Course at UW. Learn more at: <https://ojnoer.ars.wisc.edu/>

Our presenters: You will receive updates from Wisconsin commodity partners on their educational resources, lesson plans and outreach. At O.J. Noer, we will have with tours and

Ag in the Classroom Summer Training Registration- Madison- July 9

Name _____ County _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____ Grade Level _____

If you aren't a teacher, what is your profession? _____

Do you have any food allergies? _____

_____ \$25 for Classroom Training on July 9 at Madison West Research Station

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Checks made to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

Send order to:

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705-0550

Found. Code: 991068

Or you can pay by credit card:

Step 1: Fill out form and save to your computer. Press SUBMIT to email this form to the Farm Bureau office.

Step 2: Click here to complete payment.



Ag in the Classroom Summer Classroom Training

Wednesday, July 31, 2019 • 9:15-4:00

Neville Public Museum in Green Bay

Join us for a day learning about educational agricultural resources for all grade levels! We welcome classroom teachers, home school parents, 4-H and extension staff and volunteers and others involved in agricultural literacy to participate. Registration materials can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org. **The registration deadline is July 15.** Cost is \$25 which includes lunch, refreshments and materials. For more information, contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5644.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:15-9:30 | Arrive at Neville Public Museum (210 Museum Place, Green Bay, WI 54303) and register. Please note that the museum opens at 9am! |
| 9:30-10:00 | Welcome, introductions, and sharing your favorite lesson! |
| 9:30-10:00 | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin resources – Karen Doster |
| 10:30-11:15 | Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers resources – Theresa Baroun |
| 11:15–12:00 noon | Brown County Dairy Promotion Programming – Nicole Nohl, Jennifer Bartkowski and Ashley VandenBush |
| 12noon- 12:45 | Lunch |
| 12:45-1:45 | Neville Public Museum- history and tour- Ryan Swadley |
| 1:45-3:00 | Ag in the Classroom resources – Darlene Arneson |
| 3:00-3:45 | Sharing of your best Ag in the Classroom website, activity or organizational tip |
| 3:45–4:00 | Final discussion and adjourn |

Questions? Contact Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com. Space is limited so register today! **The registration deadline is July 15.**

About our venue:

On behalf of the Museum and staff, and all of the people who look to this museum as a community resource and asset, we remain forever grateful for your support. For one hundred years you have helped us preserve the legacy of the past and with your continued support we look forward to preserving the legacy of the next one hundred years and beyond.

Mission Statement

The Neville Public Museum of [Brown County](#) is an accredited cultural institution that champions history, science and art. Located in downtown Green Bay, Wisconsin, the museum is dedicated to the collection and preservation of significant objects relevant to Northeast Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The museum seeks to bridge these multi-generational regional communities through engaging [exhibits](#) and dynamic [programming](#).

Collections

The [Collections Department](#) supports the museum's mission through the management and preservation of our collections. There are over one million items in the permanent collections, including historic artifacts, original artworks, archeological objects, still photographs and film. Neville has several tour program options. We are going to be on the: **Our Environment and Natural Resources (3rd to 6th grade)**. Northeastern Wisconsin has been home to people for thousands of years thanks to the plentiful water, fertile land, minerals and forests found here. Learn how the natural world has influenced human behavior, and how peoples' behavior has affected the natural world.

Ag in the Classroom Summer Training Registration- Green Bay- July 31

Name _____ County _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____ Grade Level _____

If you aren't a teacher, what is your profession? _____

Do you have any food allergies? _____

___ \$25 for Classroom Training on July 31 at Neville Public Museum in Green Bay

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Checks made to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

Found. Code: 991068

Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

Send order to:

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705-0550

Or you can pay by credit card:

Step 1: Fill out form and save to your computer. Press SUBMIT to email this form to the Farm Bureau office.

Step 2: Click here to complete payment.

Wisconsin Ag Day Thank a Farmer Contest 2019 Official Rules

Entry:

- Contest open to children ages 12 and younger who live in Wisconsin
- One (1) entry per person
- To enter, download the page, complete the activity and return your entry Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom.
- Entries can be scanned and emailed to darneson@wfbf.com or you can send your entry (via U.S. Mail) to:

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom
P.O. Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705

- **Clearly print** on the bottom of the coloring page or in the email the child's name and age, county, a parent or guardian's (or teacher if a class project), street address or phone number so that winners may be notified. This information is needed for judging and will be removed before the entries are given to farmers. **ENTRIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED! Make a copy before you send it if you'd like to have one.**
- All materials must be received postmarked by March 31, 2019.

Categories:

- Ages 6 and under
- Ages 7-9
- Ages 10-12

Judging:

- Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, neatness and the message of the entry.
- Decisions are at the discretion of Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and are subject to change at any time.
- We reserve the right to award multiple winners and prizes, or no winners and prizes.

Winners:

- Winners will be notified by email, phone or postal mail.
- The winner of each age group will receive a copy of "Fresh Picked Poetry!"
- Winners will be announced in April.
- All entries will become the property of Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and can be used in social media, website, publications and other uses. After judging, the student's information will be cut off at the bottom and the thank you notes will be given to Wisconsin farmers.

Questions? darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5644



Wisconsin Ag Day Thank a Farmer Contest 2019

Draw a picture and color a picture that thanks Wisconsin farmers for providing food for life! Entries are due March 31, 2019. You can also include some words on your entry.

Student's name _____ Age _____ Parent's names (or teacher) _____
Address _____ City _____, WI Zip _____
Phone _____ County _____ Entries become the property of Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom
and can be used in social media, website and publications. Send to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, PO Box
5550, Madison, WI 53705 postmarked by March 31, 2019. Complete rules are at www.wisagclassroom.org



**Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom
National Ag Day Reading Event
March 14, 2019 #WiReadsAg2019**

Celebrate National Ag Day on March 14, 2019, by joining farmers, volunteers, teachers, FFA and 4-H members, college students, agri-business employees and others by reading books about agriculture to students, home school families, nursing home residents, day cares and others.

What is National Ag Day? A day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Each year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and others across America join to recognize the contributions of agriculture.

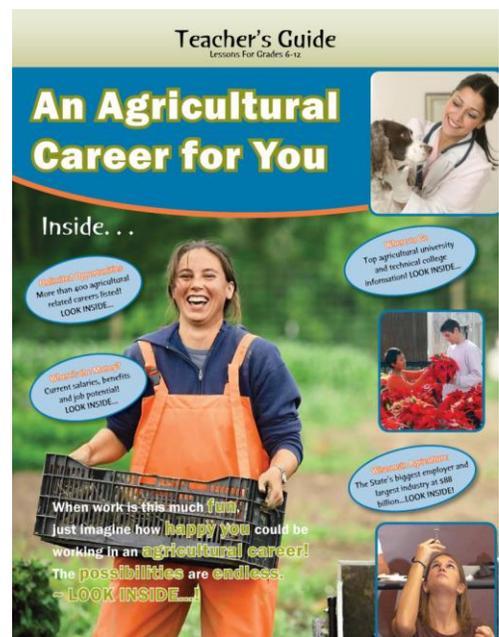
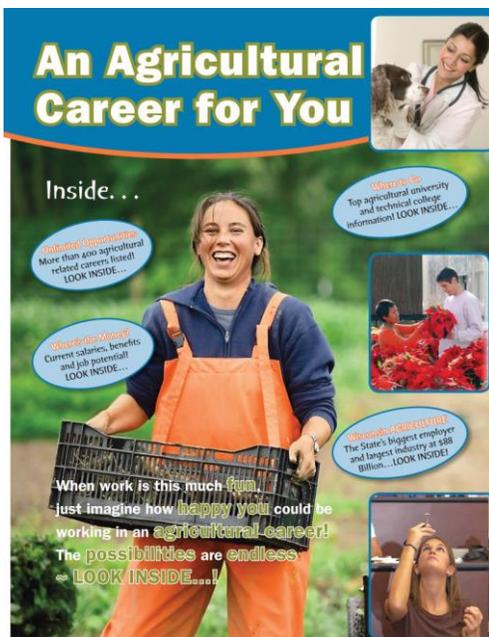
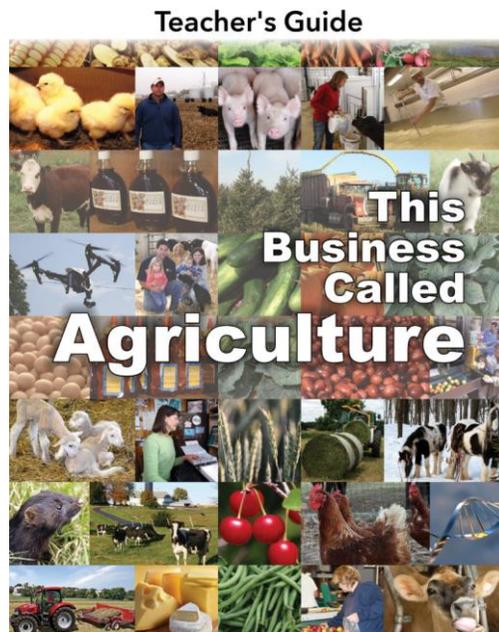
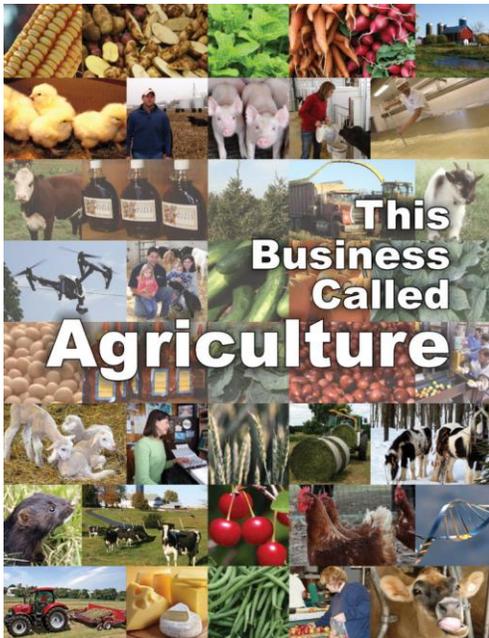
Who can participate? Anyone who has an interest in agriculture, enjoys reading, working with youth and has time on **Thursday, March 14**, to read, visit and do an activity with an audience.

How to get involved

1. Identify a group that you want to read to. It can be in a classroom at a local school, a daycare, 4-H club, nursing home, home school group, a civic club meeting or anywhere that people are interested in learning about agriculture.
2. Pick a book that you want to read. The recommended book is the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's Book of the Year: "Fresh Picked Poetry" by Michelle Schaub. The book is available from the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program. There are activities, background information and talking points available. Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom also has other books available or you may have a favorite book that you want to share. Make sure the book accurately portrays agriculture, today's farms and is an appropriate age-level and length for the group that you will read to.
3. Have an activity to go along with the book or use the 2019 Ag Day Contest project. If you use "Fresh Picked Poetry," Ag in the Classroom has an educator's guide that comes with the book that has talking points, activities and recipes. You also may want to incorporate other hands-on activities, snacks or lessons into this presentation.
4. Once you have a plan, finalize the date, time and location for your visit. If the school or venue has any restrictions (i.e., food allergies, photos or security), be sure to know about them and follow their rules. After the visit, send the report form to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom so that we can tabulate the outreach of this activity. **Please return the report by March 31.**
5. Be sure to use **#WiReadsAg2019** on social media to talk about National Ag Day and your reading activity.

Invite someone to come to your class to read! You can check with your county Ag in the Classroom coordinator, local farmers, parents or grandparents and agri-business people in your town!

How do I get copies of these?



This Business Called Agriculture is geared towards third through fifth grade students. There is an Educator's Guide that goes along with it.

An Agricultural Career for You is for middle and high school students. It also has an Educator's Guide.

You can just email darneson@wfbf.com with the quantity you need and the mailing address (not a PO Box) they should be sent to. There is no charge thanks to our sponsors!

They are also downloadable off of the website under the Teacher Tab and then Lesson Plans!

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.

Darlene Arneson
Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom
PO Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705
608.828.5644
darneson@wfbf.com
wisagclassroom.org



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! AITC 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 – **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 – **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). 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 AITC 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 AITC 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.

Don't forget to use our Curriculum Matrix and set up your own folder of lessons plans for future reference!

www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix

The screenshot shows a web browser window with two tabs: "Teachers Information" and "National Agriculture in the Classroom". The address bar displays "https://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/". The website header features the "National Agriculture in the Classroom" logo on the left, social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest) and a "Donate" button in the center, and a shopping cart icon with the text "Resources to grow! agclassroomstore.com" on the right. A dark blue navigation bar contains the following links: Home, Teacher Center, Student Center, Get Involved, and Affiliates. The main content area has a heading "Welcome to the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix" in a mix of red and black fonts. Below the heading is a dark blue bar with "Matrix Home" on the left and "Submit a Resource", "MyBinder", and "Login to MyBinder" on the right. The "Browse the Matrix" section includes a paragraph describing the Matrix as an online, searchable, standards-based curriculum map for K-12 teachers, contextualizing national education standards in science, social studies, and nutrition education with relevant instructional resources linked to Common Core Standards. It encourages users to search for resources and consider storing them in a MyBinder. The "Submit a Resource to the Matrix" section states that the organization is always looking for quality resources and invites users to submit innovative lesson plans or companion resources. The "Keyword Search Lesson Plans & Companion Resources" section features a search box with the placeholder text "Keyword Search" and a "Search Now!" button. To the right of the text is an image of three red apples on top of a stack of books, with a pair of red-handled scissors and a white marker in the foreground.