



September 2019
Ag in the Classroom Newsletter for
our Ag in the Classroom Volunteers!

Fall Ag in the Classroom Information Meetings

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Informational meetings will be held to offer an opportunity to learn more about the Ag in the Classroom program. The meetings are open to Ag in the Classroom volunteers, 4-H Extension staff and club leaders, agriculture education instructors, FFA Food for America committee chairs, FFA Alumni, commodity groups, home school parents, teachers of all grade levels and subjects, Farm Bureau members and others interested in learning more about Ag in the Classroom resources and initiatives. The new essay contest, Book of the Year, and new initiatives will be discussed. There is no charge and preregistration. All meetings will go from 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM.

Attend whatever location is most convenient for your schedule.

- Tuesday, September 17
Sherman and Ruth Weiss Community Library- Community Room
10788 State Hwy 27/77, Hayward, WI 54843
- Wednesday, September 18
Oconto Falls Public Library- Meeting Room
251 North Main Street, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
- Monday, September 23
West Allis Public Library- Constitution Room
7421 West National Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214
- Tuesday, September 24
Ruth Culver Community Library- Community Room
540 Water Street, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
- Wednesday, September 25
L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library- Eau Claire Room
400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701
- Thursday, September 26
Waupaca Area Public Library- Room A
107 South Main Street, Waupaca, WI 54981

Contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wbf.com or 608.828.5644 with questions. Learn more about Ag in the Classroom by visiting wisagclassroom.org.

Encourage your teachers to apply!

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR TEACHER MINI - GRANT PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation is offering grants up to \$100 each to pre-school through high school teachers, in a public or private school system, 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.

Grant Selection Criteria

A judging committee will review all funding requests that are properly completed and postmarked by **October 15, 2019**.

- Multiple teachers from the same school may apply but the applications must be for different projects and activities!
- Completed applications must be typed or computer-generated
- Font size should be no smaller than 10-point.
- The application may be reproduced using word-processing software only if line/page spacing is not altered.
- The application should not exceed two pages.
- **Five copies of the application should be submitted (the original can be signed and four copies made of it)**

Items considered when evaluating the applications:

- Quality and uniqueness of the agricultural lesson, activity or project
- Integration of agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas
- Alignment with Wisconsin Model Academic Standards
- Assessment methods used to evaluate student's knowledge
- Quality and completeness of application

The proposed project must be targeted to grades Pre-K-12 and should enhance student knowledge of the contribution made by agriculture. Projects that use funds toward an ongoing, sustainable education effort will receive preference over those that involve a 'one-time' program. Proposed projects or events designed to reach large groups of students will be given preference, as will those that involve innovative approaches to promoting agricultural literacy.

Application Information

Complete the attached form and return postmarked by **October 15, 2019** to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture in the Classroom, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705. Winning applicants will be notified in November. A final report of the project and how funds were utilized must be submitted to WFBF by June 15, 2020. An editable form of this application is available at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/grants-awards/grants/mini-grants/>

For more information

Please contact us at 608-828-5644 or email darneson@wfbf.com



Encourage someone to apply! Outstanding Teacher Award

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.

Who is eligible?

- Certified teachers currently engaged in classroom instruction at the pre-K through 12 levels. Applications may be from an individual teacher or a teaching team.
- Teachers integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula (agriculture education instructors are not eligible).

What will the winner receive?

- The state winner(s) will receive a plaque given in a classroom presentation
- \$500 to be used towards the 2019 National AITC Conference in Salt Lake City, UT on June 23-26, 2020.
- The state winner(s) will represent Wisconsin as the state's nominee for the Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award Program presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture in the Classroom program.

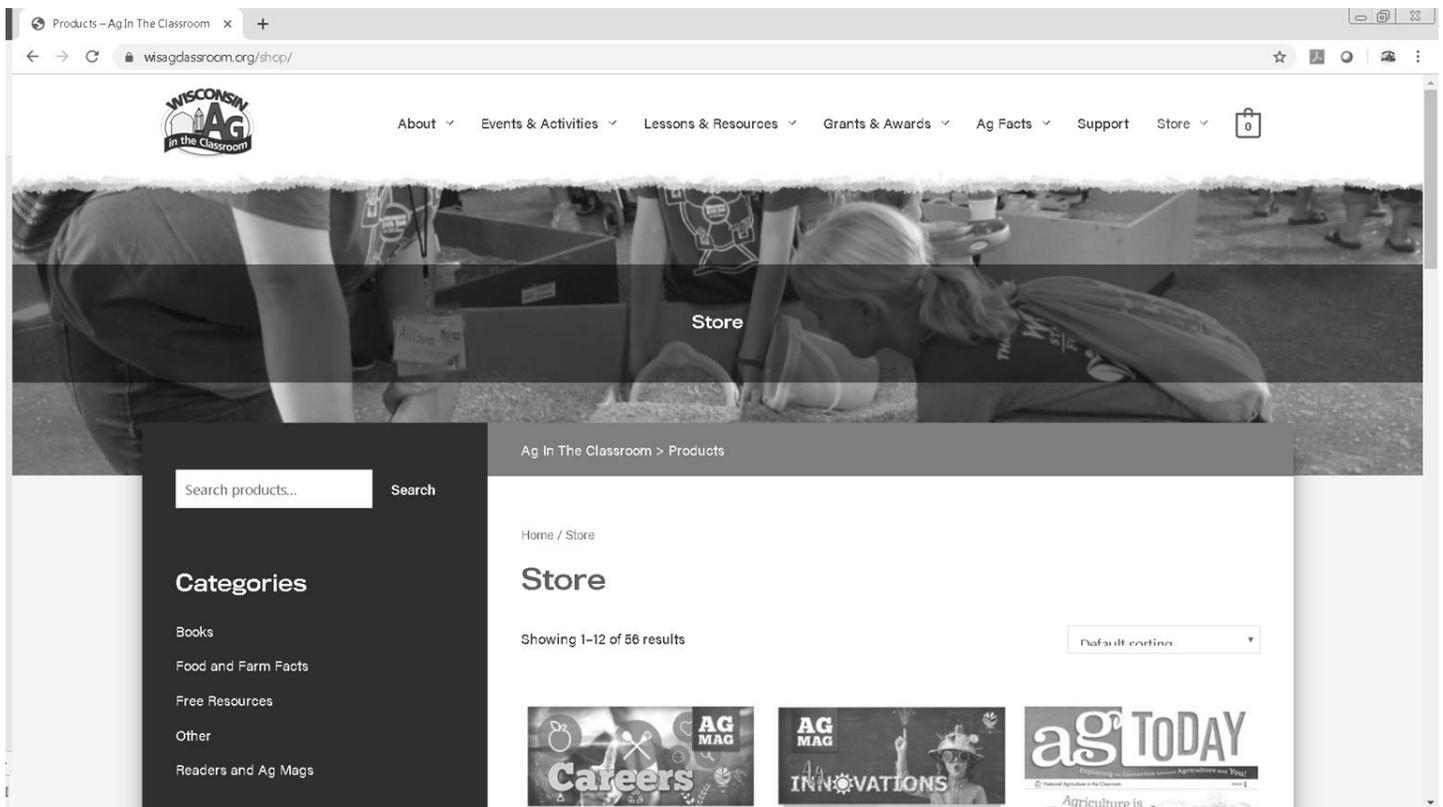
What are the criteria for selection?

Teachers must utilize agricultural information and/or materials within the classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Learning activities may include, but are not limited to, understanding agriculture's impact on personal lives, our national heritage, the environment, national security and the economy. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

A panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education, and Agriculture in the Classroom will evaluate all nominations. Teacher's name and other identifying information will be removed from the application for judging.

Download the 2019-2020 application here

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/grants-awards/outstanding-teacher-award/>



Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Online Store

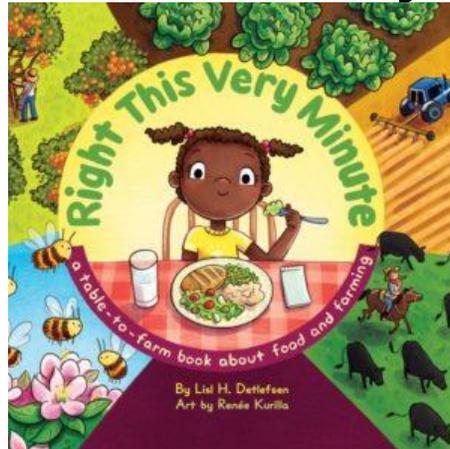
The 2019 website redesign of the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's website has a new online store. All books, resources and products offered by Wisconsin AITC will be offered through the store. **Please toss all paper order forms as prices and procedures have changed!** The new store has the hard cover books, educational books (This Business Called Agriculture, An Agricultural Career for You, World of Corn Activity Books), Educator Guides, Ag Mags, Ag Today Readers, bookmarks, Farm Facts, Food and Farm Fact products and other items Wisconsin AITC will offer.

Payment must be done using a credit card! Shipping charges are built into all products prices and there is no shipping for free items.

If you have questions, please contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wbf.com or 608-828-5644. Thank you for your help and patience as we transition to this new way of getting resources to our teachers and volunteers.

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/shop/>

Ag in the Classroom Program Announces Book of the Year and Essay Contest Topic



Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom kicks off the 2019-2020 school year announcing the Book of the Year, *Right This Very Minute*, written by Lisl Detlefsen of Wisconsin.

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, "How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?"

Detlefsen's book is also the current American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Book of the Year and has an Educator's Guide developed for it. Accompanying lessons aligned to educational standards and various Wisconsin educational resources are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

"We are thrilled to have our book be written by a Wisconsin author who lives agriculture each day," said Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson. "The book looks at how agriculture affects a young child during various parts of the day. It offers ideas for students to think about their day and how agriculture affects them during mealtime, impacts the clothes they wear and the jobs around them.

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 on the <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/>. Essays are due April 1, 2020. The contest is sponsored by We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

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 classroom presentation for his/her class. Last year, more than 2,000 students participated in the contest.

Questions about the book or essay contest can be directed to darneson@wbf.com.

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program Unveils New Website

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program is pleased to announce the launch of a newly-redesigned website. The updated website was launched in early September and can be viewed at www.wisagclassroom.com.

"Our new website is easy to navigate for teachers, volunteers and students," said Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson. "We are very excited to offer an online store where Ag in the Classroom materials can be purchased."

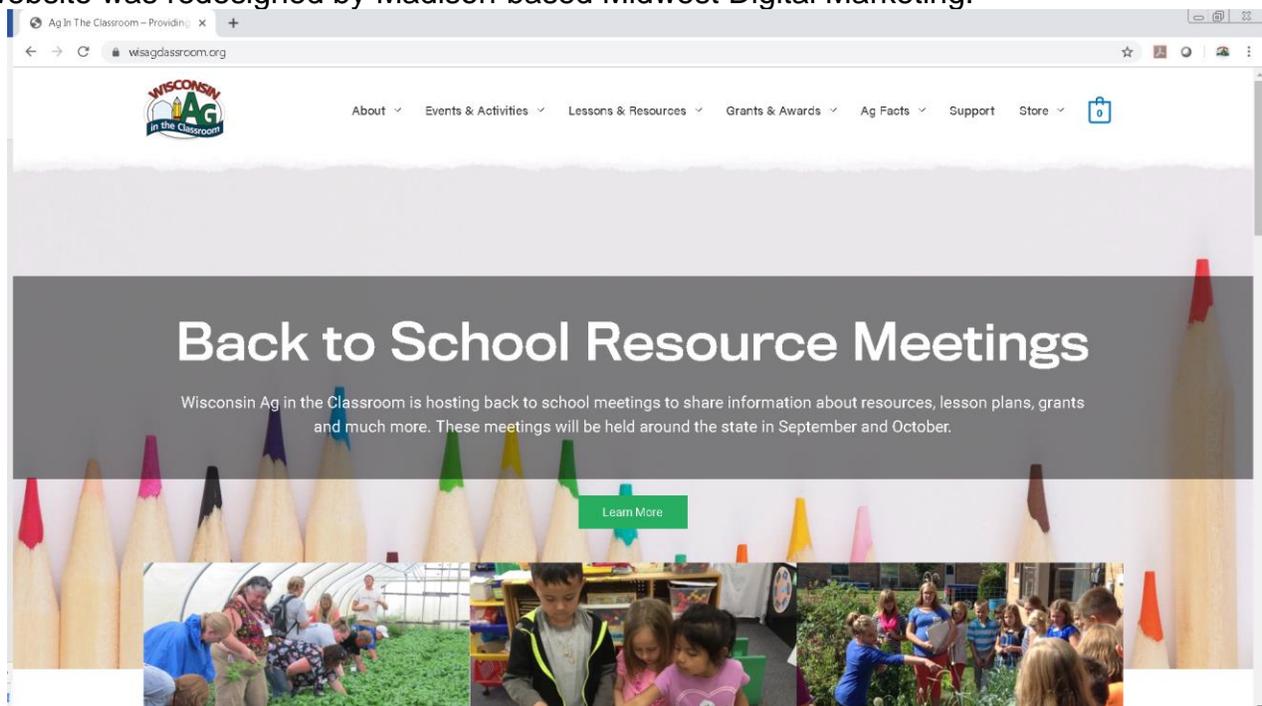
Highlights of the redesigned website include:

Online store: Anyone can easily browse all the materials available from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom or filter by categories such as books, Ag Mags and free resources. The website allows you to easily pay by credit card. Older book and resource order forms will be discontinued as orders can now be placed online.

Agriculture lessons and facts: Teachers can find lesson plans appropriate for their students based on grade level as well as fun facts about Wisconsin agriculture. The new website also offers colorful commodity sheets that highlight Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry.

Events calendar: Teachers and volunteers can browse upcoming events on the new calendar, which will be updated regularly to provide a broad overview of upcoming meetings, workshops and other activities.

The website was redesigned by Madison-based Midwest Digital Marketing.





Want to go to Salt Lake City in June? Check out this opportunity -apply by October 15! Scholarships are for both teachers AND volunteers!

<https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/ag-scholarships>

White-Reinhardt Scholarship opportunities to the 2020 National Ag in the Classroom Conference for full time educators and/or volunteers that actively participate in classroom ag literacy programs or events are now available. This scholarship program is to provide travel expense funds to attend the national conference and then use the information gained to expand their outreach to students regarding food, fiber and fuel.

The White-Reinhardt Fund for Education is a special project of the Foundation in cooperation with the AFB Women's Leadership Committee. It was established to honor two former chairs of that committee, Berta White and Linda Reinhardt, who were leaders in the national effort to improve agricultural literacy.

Each application once submitted will be sent to your State Farm Bureau Agricultural Literacy Coordinator for approval. The Foundation will be responsible for sending your application. Your State Coordinator will also be required to fill out a recommendation form which will need to be submitted to foundation@fb.org in order for you to qualify. Questions? Email: foundation@fb.org.

2020 National Conference Information can be found at <https://www.agclassroom.org/conferences/index.cfm>



AFBFA Mini-Grant Program for County Farm Bureaus- Due October 15 or April 15

The White-Reinhardt Mini-Grant Program funds projects that will increase agricultural literacy. County and state Farm Bureaus may apply for **\$1,000 grants** for education programs for grades K-12 in order to initiate new ag literacy programs or expand existing programs. Grants are available on a competitive basis.

The White-Reinhardt Fund for Education is a special project of the Foundation in cooperation with the AFB Women's Leadership Committee. It was established to honor two former chairs of that committee, Berta White and Linda Reinhardt, who were leaders in the national effort to improve agricultural literacy.

Apply now for a Spring 2020 grant. Applications must be submitted by October 15. BEFORE you apply you must read all of the rules and guidelines at

<https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/mini-grants-home> Questions?

Email: foundation@fb.org.

**Has your county sent in all your reports- County AITC,
Soybean Science Kit, My American Farm usage?
Identified your essay contest coordinator? Promoted
your soybean science kit?**

**Need help? Contact Darlene Arneson at
darneson@wbf.com**