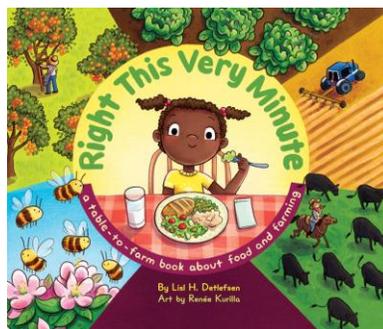




Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom

Essay Contest 2019-2020 Volunteer Handbook

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www.wisagclassroom.org



2019-2020 Essay Contest for 4th and 5th Grade Students Presented by Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom

How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?

This year's essay contest topic is "How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?" Our 2020 Book of the Year is "**Right this very minute**" by Lisl Detlefsen. The book and essay topic allow students to explore how agriculture affects us each day as we eat, the clothes we wear, careers around us, how it impacts the area they live in (i.e. jobs, businesses, farms, processors), and other topics. All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau essay contest coordinator's info, lessons and activities, and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org. Books must be ordered online through the website store.

Contest Rules:

- The essay contest is open to 4th and 5th grade students in public schools, private schools, and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink **or** be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be between 100 to 300 words in length.
- Essays will be judged on content (50 points), grammar and spelling (25 points) and originality and creativity (25 points).
- Essays must include: student's name, grade level, parent's name, teacher's name, school name and address, school phone number, teacher's email address and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- **Entry deadline - Postmarked by April 1, 2020** and sent to the county essay coordinator:

**County Farm Bureau Essay Contest
Coordinator:**

To find the address of your county Farm Bureau essay contest coordinator, visit wisagclassroom.org and look under the essay contest information.

Contest Prizes:

- Nine district winners will be chosen. District and state winners will be announced in May 2020.
- Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May 2020 for their class, homeroom or home school group.
- A state winner will be chosen and will receive a special award.

The Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest is sponsored by We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation – Ag in the Classroom.



Return this form with essay **or** provide the same information on the back of each entry:

Student's name _____

Grade level _____

Parent's name (mom and dad) _____

Teacher's name _____

School name _____

School address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Teacher's email _____

School phone number _____

County _____

You can use the 2020 Book of the Year "**Right this very minute**" for ideas and perspectives you could cover. But that is not a requirement! Including poetry, as the book does, might be a fun way is acceptable but not required.

Because of the broad nature of this topic, students might consider, **but are not limited to**, some of these sub-topics as they write their essay:

- What did I eat today and where did it come from?
- Where did I get the clothes I am wearing or other things I wear or use?
- Right this very minute, I think I might consider this agricultural career when I get older.
- How could my life be different without agriculture?
- Agriculture impacts my family in many ways.
- In my town or city, I see agriculture in what ways.
- Agriculture in other parts of the country or world affect me in what ways?
- Agriculture impacted my ancestors in what way?

Use your imagination and creativity to think of other items to write about!

On the Web

National Ag in the Classroom matrix- search for nutrition, careers, and other lessons!

<https://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/>

National Ag in the Classroom Student Center-

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

American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture- free lessons, My American Farm resources, and links to other resources. <https://www.agfoundation.org/free-resources/>

Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association- Links to learn about farm tours, destinations, ag-ventures and other venues around our state.- <http://www.visitdairyland.com/>

Economic Impact of Wisconsin Agriculture- this resources was done by UW Extension and offers a state-wide impact as well as county information. <https://anre.uwex.edu/economicimpact/>. You may want to check the

[current Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics for updated information-](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/)

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Wisconsin/Publications/Annual Statistical Bulletin/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/)

How to help students determine what to write:

- Discuss how agriculture impacts them using the sub-points in the box above.
- Using lessons from National Ag in the Classroom, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, and other sources to learn more about agriculture in their area.
- Using the Wisconsin Agri-Tourism website to learn about agricultural tourism destinations, adventures, farms and other venues in their area.
- Take a trip to Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center in Manitowoc, WI to learn more about how agriculture affects all of us! <https://farmwisconsin.org/>

Questions? Contact Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom at 608-828-5644, email darneson@wbf.com or look for us on the web at wisagclassroom.org.

Promoting the contest

The following ideas are suggestions for promoting the essay contest in your county.

1. Have a meeting of the Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom and County FB Promotion and Education committee to discuss your county's plan for promoting and handling the contest. Include any other people that could be helpful (i.e. FFA Advisors, 4-H leaders, home school contacts). Does your county offer any incentives or prizes for participants? Discuss how and when you'll judge the entries, follow-up to the schools and other details.
2. Essay topic lessons and resources on the website: Use the lessons that accompanied the book ***Right this very minute*** or the other lessons under the Essay Contest section.
3. Does your county have a database or list of teachers you work with? If not, contact the schools in your county and find out which schools have 4-5th grade classes. You can get a list of schools from the DPI website's school directory (<http://dpi.wi.gov/directories.html>).
4. Personal contact is the best! A telephone call to the teacher to arrange a time to present the essay contest information would be best. The teacher may want to meet with you first to discuss the contest- or maybe the teacher will want you to come right in and give a classroom presentation. In schools where there are multiple classrooms of 4-5th grade students, you may be able to have a short meeting with all the teachers to explain the contest and hand out the resource packets. This is a good opportunity to promote your other county AITC resources.
5. Many schools are changing their policies about distributing information. A good committee task is to contact schools you haven't had success with and ask what their rules are for distributing contest information. You may have to clear the essay contest flyer with an administration staff member first and provide enough copies for all students. Sometimes it needs to have the principal or curriculum coordinators approval.
6. If you are asked to give a classroom presentation, use one of the suggested lessons in the Resource packet. There are a variety of different options and all lessons can be changed to fit the classroom you're presenting in.
7. Follow-up is important. Checking in with the schools periodically during the school year will help keep the essay contest fresh in the teacher's minds. A reminder email, mailing or phone call a few weeks before the deadline is also a good reminder and you can verify where the essays should be sent to. You can offer a classroom presentation or other assistance if they need it. Clarifying where the essays can be sent is important. You might even want to provide an envelope with the correct address information for the schools.
8. Consider an incentive for the teachers that have students entering the contest. Perhaps offering them a package of Ag Mags, a choice of one of the Children's Books, some of the

American Farm Bureau Foundation products (www.agfoundation.org) or other resource might entice them to have students complete the essays.

9. Use the social media posts and press releases in your local newspapers for promoting the contest. We are getting more home school families using AITC resources, 4-H clubs (after school programs), and others that see our opportunities. You can modify the press release to fit your local communities and put in your county information.
10. Contact your local agriculture education and FFA advisors. Perhaps their students can help promote the contest through their Food for America activities. The FFA also has an Agriculture Education Proficiency area so your local school may have some students that have an interest in working with elementary classes and could assist you in promoting the contest.
11. Don't get discouraged! Teachers get numerous requests for various contests and activities. Work with the teachers to see how this contest can best fit into their curriculum.

When you receive essays....

- Please follow-up with the schools or students that enter!
- Let them know that you received the essays!
- Let them know when you will be judging them and how they will find out who the winners are.
- Thank them for their participation and encourage 4th graders to watch for next year's contest.
- Inform them of any other information they should know about your county's essay contest program!

Thank you- the teachers, parents and students will truly appreciate your follow up!

2019-2020 Essay Contest Deadlines

These are **postmarked by dates!**

April 1- Essays due to county Farm Bureau essay coordinators

April 15- County Winners due to District Promotion and Education Chair with a report on how many essays you received!

April 25- District Winners due to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom from the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

May 1- State Winner Selection Packet (copies of the nine district winners and ballot) sent to WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

May 8- Ballots must be returned to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom

May to end of school year- District Winner Presentations by Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, sponsors and county leadership.

Contest Rules

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- **Entry deadline - Postmarked by April 1, 2020**



2019-2020 County Essay Report Form

COUNTY _____ CHAIRPERSON _____

ENTRIES _____

Please return this form along with your winning County Essay by April 15 to your Promotion and Education Chairperson.

Make a copy of the winning essay for your records – essays may not be returned to you from the District or State.

Student Version- 2019-2020 Essay Contest Rules

This year's essay contest topic is ***"How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?"***

All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities, and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at

www.wisagclassroom.org

You can use the 2020 Book of the Year ***"Right this very minute"*** for ideas and perspectives you could cover. Books that are purchased from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom have an Educator's Guide with lesson plans and activities in it.

Because of the broad nature of this topic, you might consider, **but are not limited to,** some of these sub-topics as you write your essay:

- What did I eat today and where did it come from?
- Where did I get the clothes I am wearing or other things I wear or use?
- Right this very minute, I think I might consider this agricultural career when I get older.
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- **Entry deadline - Postmarked by April 1, 2020**

When you get done, count the number of words in your essay (or use Word Count) and write that on your entry information on the back of your essay.

Thank you to our sponsors!



We Energies

www.weenergies.com

We provide electric service to customers in portions of Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. We also serve natural gas customers in Wisconsin and steam customers in downtown Milwaukee. We Energies is the trade name of Wisconsin Electric Power Co. and Wisconsin Gas LLC, principal utility subsidiaries of Wisconsin Energy Corporation.

Jason Kollwelter, We Energies, 1300 Janesville Avenue, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538



The [Wisconsin Farm Bureau \(WFB\) Foundation](#) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 tax deductible entity to support agricultural education and leadership programs. Established in 1988, the Foundation continues to significantly invest in the next generation of agriculturists.

The WFB Foundation funds a variety of agricultural education and leadership programs including the Agriculture in the Classroom program, Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center, Farm Bureau Leadership Training Institute, 4-H Foundation, 4-H Key Awards, FFA Food for America Awards, FFA Farm Forum, FFA Discussion Meet Contest, Alice in Dairyland, Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center, and the Wisconsin Rural Youth Scholarship Fund.