



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/

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 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.