

2019-2020 School Year Teacher Mini-Grant Recipients

The following teachers were awarded \$100 grants that will be used this school year:

Ag on the Lawn

Lisa Jagielo, Unity High School, Balsam Lake

The Unity Ag on the Lawn event is held annually each May near the elementary school. Elementary teachers sign up for specific times to tour the presentations and displays organized by the FFA members. The grant will be used to purchase Ag Today Readers and AFBFA Food and Farm Fact pencils that can help educate the students about agriculture.

Agriculture Awareness for All!

Kirstin Thompson- Greenfield Elementary- Baldwin

Students will be expected to research rural life skills, conduct interviews of real-life experts in the community, design a three-dimensional model related to the topic, and do a speaking presentation to show others what has been learned. The second objective is to help students transition to the balanced literacy approach to reading and writing the district has adopted. Funds will be used to order a variety of books that can be used to learn the use of “how-to” type reference books.

Agriculture Library Expansion

Stacey Kunde- Brillion Public Schools, Brillion

Students will be encouraged to increase their reading of agricultural materials that are age appropriate, connect to course work, and to their interests. The school has very few agricultural books and resources in their school library or agriculture education department. Funds will be used to buy books, magazine subscriptions and therefore, increase agricultural selections for the students.

Brooding Chicks

Stephanie DeVries- Cambria-Friesland Schools, Cambria

Having chicks in their classroom allows students to learn about nutrition, care, temperatures needed, anatomy and clean-up of the chicks and cages. After raising the chicks to maturity, the birds will be processed in the food prep class. Fund will be used for a battery brooder, chick food, probiotics and eggs.

Careers in the Ag World

Cindi Syverson- South Middle School, Eau Claire

In this AVID Elective, students will look at post-secondary education options. They will be exploring through use of a college pass, tour, career fields and pathways exploration, learn how to research careers, and other career related activities. They will be using the Xello Career Interest Survey along with other career resources from Ag in the Classroom. Funds will be used help with a career experience at Chippewa Valley Technical College including the bus costs, lunch and substitute teacher expense.

Growing plants from seeds

John Slipek- Abbotsford High School- Abbotsford

Working with second grade students, they will be purchasing seed, soil and containers for use during this 9-week unit. Each student will be able to plant seeds, monitor their growth, and observe germination differences, soil temperature, moisture, sunlight, growth rate, and other factors. The students will also be able to propagate plants using other methods and hopefully will have plants to take home for Mother’s Day.

Increasing Agricultural History and Literacy

Kate Van Haren- Pittsville Elementary School, Pittsville

The project will help 4-5th grade students understand and appreciate the role that agriculture has played in shaping human development and human history. It will allow students to read, discuss and then explain how the invention and progression of agriculture allowed the human population to grow. Using that information, they can discuss positives, negatives and other issues. The grant will be used to purchase a variety of books on agricultural history.

Let's Explore Agriculture!

Leigh Walske and Sarah Burmeister, Rexford/Longfellow Elementary School, Clintonville

The goal is to bring agriculture to their first-grade classrooms during scheduled science time. The projects will explore animals, plant science, and developing an agricultural journal to organize their observations. The grant will be used for curriculum and books, plant science activities, animal related projects, and Learning Lab Kits.

Life Lessons Learned...After School

Lori Wick- UW-Extension and Argyle School District

Lafayette County UW-Extension has partnered with the Argyle School District to offer an after-school program teaching life-skills and agricultural literacy to students in 2-4th grades. The program runs six weeks in the fall and six weeks in the spring. Students will cover fabric, textiles, where fiber materials come from, and other related topics. They will enjoy snacks and learn where the snacks come from. Funds will be used for snacks and supplies for the program.

Reading in Agri Science

Nathaniel Nolden- Wisconsin Dells High School, Wisconsin Dells

The Reading in Agri Science project is to provide students with reading materials to choose from during class or home room period. The grant will be used to buy a variety of books covering a range of Lexile levels and languages that can be cataloged and entered into a Google Form tracking system so all students can access them. Follow-up activities include discussions, nature walks, and learning stress coping skills.

The Giving Garden

Jarred Beduze- Northland Lutheran High School, Kronenwetter

This project will translate seeds, garden and planting words and phrases from English into Spanish to help students connect to The Giving Garden. This will help students create a story in Spanish about the history of the Giving Garden at Northland Lutheran High School. The grant will be used for any translation needs, and to purchase seeds, fertilizer, garden stakes, and reusable pots for the garden.

Water and Light Experiments

Joel Putz- Immanuel Lutheran School, Manitowoc

Students will learn that seeds need water, light and nutrients to grow properly and be able to make and test hypothesis. Through testing and experiments on various plants, they will be able to complete their research and present their results. Funds will be used for Grow Lights, timers, soil moisture sensors and other equipment needed for their research.

Wisconsin Agriculture

Andrea Waski- St. Victor's School, Monroe

The goal of this project is to work with the Monroe FFA to introduce students to the unique areas of Wisconsin agriculture, understand where their food comes from, create awareness of the value of agriculture in their county and state, and use hands-on exploration that is cross-curricular and encourages investigation. Funds will be used to purchase Ag Mags, Ag Today Readers and AFBFA pencils, Food and Farm Fact books and trivia cards.