



January 2020
**Ag in the Classroom Newsletter for
our Ag in the Classroom Teachers
and Home School Parents!**

Ready, set, go!! Ag in the Classroom is racing into 2020!

Essay Contest - <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/>

This year's 4-5th grade essay contest topic is "How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?" Students can write about how agriculture affects us daily with food, shelter, jobs, businesses and other aspects. Essays are due to county essay coordinators postmarked April 1. Lessons, rules and other resources are on the website.

Ag Day Reading Event and Student Contest - <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/national-ag-day-2/>

Celebrate National Ag Day on March 24, 2020. Celebrate 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. Students can draw and color a picture that shows people who are involved in growing, producing, processing, selling, preparing or other connection to how food gets to our tables. They may focus on one person or several who are involved. They may add a caption if they'd like to. Entries are due March 31, 2020. The contest is open to children ages 12 and under with three divisions: ages 6 and under, ages 7-9 and ages 10-12.

Matching Grants Due March 1 - <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/grants-awards/grants/matching-grants/>

Matching grants of up to \$500 to groups sponsoring programs or projects that promote agricultural literacy. Grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$500 to applicants that secure or provide equal matching funds for the proposed project.

AFBFA Food and Farm Facts - <https://www.agfoundation.org/resources/food-and-farm-facts-2019>

The new edition came out in Fall 2019 and all the supplementary resources are now available. This book features facts about food in America, how it's grown and who produces it using color photographs, charts and infographics. Online resources area available and Wisconsin AITC carries the books, trivia cards, pocket guides, pencils and 4-6th grade activity guides in the online store.

AITC Workshop at IGNITE - <https://wbf.com/events/ignite-conference/>

Connecting with Ag in the Classroom will offered during the IGNITE Conference. Where does Ag in the Classroom fit into your county program? This workshop will explore the basics of AITC and how you can recruit volunteers, reach teachers and students, use resources for special events outside of a traditional classroom and share information on how your county is organized. We also will cover websites, resources and how to host or promote teacher and volunteer training sessions.

ZOOM Meetings- found on YouTube on the Wisconsin AITC Channel

Recorded ZOOM meetings on a variety of Ag in the Classroom topics can be watched anytime! If you can't make meetings and trainings, this is a great way to keep up-to-date on what's happening, new resources, and program details. Watch for other playlists of videos that relate to AITC and agriculture.

National AITC Conference - <https://www.agclassroom.org/conferences/index.cfm>

This year the conference is June 23-26 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Teachers, volunteers and staff will enjoy traveling workshops to Utah agricultural operations; onsite workshops that demonstrate how to use agricultural resources to contextualize standards in reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and nutrition; and dynamic keynote speakers who provide their perspectives on supporting Agriculture in the Classroom's mission of promoting the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

Random Lake Teacher Recognized for Agricultural Literacy Work

Cindy Barber, a fifth-sixth grade teacher at Random Lake Middle School in Random Lake, is this year's recipient of Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program's Outstanding Teacher Award.

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation recognizes a teacher for his or her efforts in educating students on the importance of agriculture. Teachers of all grade levels and subject areas, with the exclusion of certified agricultural education instructors, are eligible to apply.

"Cindy has been offering her students a wide-range of learning opportunities using programs and resources available on the local, state and national levels," said Darlene Arneson, Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Coordinator.

Last fall Barber's students presented a farmers' market for their school. They obtained donations of pumpkins, apples, string cheese and other products. The students also worked with the shop department to build pumpkin and ghost cut-outs.

Barber earned her bachelor of science degree in education from UW-Milwaukee. Prior to that she took pre-education classes from UW - Washington Center and earned an associate degree in culinary studies from Milwaukee Area Technical College. Barber taught at Lumen Christi School from 1993-200, as a substitute teacher in Random Lake from 2006-2010 and full-time at Random Lake since 2010.

Barber will be Wisconsin's nominee for the National Excellence in Teaching Agriculture Award and will receive a \$500 sponsorship to attend the 2020 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Melissa Liegel, a fourth grade teacher at Tower Rock Elementary School in the Sauk Prairie School District, and Kathleen Schumacher, a K-fourth grade teacher at Stetsonville Elementary School in the Medford School District, were named runners up for their efforts in sharing agricultural literacy with their students.

Here's what's new with Journey 2050!



National Agriculture in the Classroom Program Manager Tessa Matuszak here with some important information about the educational gaming platform Journey 2050.

As many of you know, Journey 2050 and Farmers 2050 creator, Nutrien, Ltd., NAITCO and many Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) state programs have been involved in the expanded rollout of Journey 2050 (classroom educational version) and Farmers 2050 (at home entertaining version) in the U.S. in recent years.

Journey 2050 allows students in 7th through 12th grade to explore world food sustainability through a series of lesson plans and an interactive virtual game played on classroom devices. Level 1-4 the students travel to three different countries to virtually farm, competing to become the most sustainable. Level 5 takes the students around the world, exploring the impact of geography, cultural differences, and population growth. Finally, in Level 6 students create a career avatar based on their personal interests, leading them to an array of career opportunities that can be connected to agriculture. It's an educational resource teaching students about the decisions farmers make every day to grow food, fiber and fuel while balancing their economic, environmental and societal footprint. The game is free of charge and there aren't any advertisements to interfere with the gaming experience. To download the game if you haven't already, please visit <http://www.journey2050.com/play-the-game/>. NAITCO, California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, Colorado Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation have classroom sets of tablets with the games downloaded already that are available for checkout.

Previously the program lessons and the game ended at Level 6. Now there is a new Level 7 with a lesson and activities covering technological advancements in agriculture such as global positioning systems, drones, temperature and moisture sensors and robots, among others. There is not an additional level built into the game at this time. In addition, new service learning resources created in partnership with WE Charity have been added, and a newly revised program summary has been added that is centered around Project-Based Learning, a teaching method that allows students to learn by engaging in real-world, personally meaningful projects.

Check out these new lessons and resources by visiting the Journey 2050 website at http://journey2050.rnp.io/teachers/online/activities_and_resources#step-by-step-guide. You will need to log in to see the resources. If you don't have a free Journey 2050 teacher account, you will first need to register for one by visiting <https://www.journey2050.com/teacher-experience/>.

Or you can view them on the Curriculum Matrix at:

[Journey 2050 Lesson 7: Technology and Innovations \(Grades 6-8\)](#)

[Journey 2050 Lesson 7: Technology & Innovations \(Grades 9-12\)](#)

[Journey 2050 Program Summary: Project-Based Learning](#)

If you aren't liking us on Facebook, you're missing out!



This is where you'll find daily postings on new resources, contests, grants, classes, information, links to other resources, curriculum matrix and more!



For any help, questions or other inquiries about Ag in the Classroom, please contact:

Darlene Arneson
Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom
darneson@wfbf.com
608-828-5644