



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

Lots of changes and unknowns but we're here to help!

With the day-to-day changes in school closings, advisories, restrictions and other issues, there are so many unknowns for all of us. We are doing our best to adjust deadlines, events and activities based on the best information we have.

Matching Grants- the applications are with the judges and I expect the results back the week of March 23. We will process the checks and send them to the address on the application. Since the projects are for the next year, this program is not affected.

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom has extended deadlines for several grants and contests due to school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [MORE for Agriculture grant](#) deadline to apply is now May 10. This grant is available to teachers in grades 7-12. The MORE grant will provide 50 classroom sets of *The Hungry Planet* by Peter Menzel to participating classes in each state. The book details the food consumption of various families around the world. Companion educational lessons and resources will accompany the books.

[Essay contest](#) submissions are now due by April 24. This contest asks fourth and fifth grade students to respond to the essay prompt, "How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?". If school does not resume, parents may send entries to the [county essay coordinator](#).

The [youth coloring contest](#), that is part of National Ag Day activities, deadline has been extended until May 1. Students are asked to draw and color a picture that shows people who are involved in growing, producing, processing, selling, preparing or somehow have another connection to food. The contest is open to children ages 12 and under.

[National Ag Day reading event](#) submission deadline has been extended until June 1. People of all ages are invited to take their favorite children's book about agriculture and set up a virtual, Facebook Live, or other social media reading. Because many libraries are closed, people may need to use their own library, borrow from a friend, or buy books online. The recommended book is the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's Book of the Year *Right This Very Minute* by Wisconsin author Lisl Detlefsen. The book is available for purchase through the [online store](#) on wisagclassroom.com.

ZOOM Meetings- found on YouTube on the Wisconsin AITC Channel

I am recording a ZOOM meeting on March 19 going over many of these changes and will post it to the **Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom YouTube Channel**. Other 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>

I haven't heard if there are any possible concerns about the National Conference in June 23-26 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Registrations are open and we hope that it can happen! 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.

Things to share and do when school is not in session

We have so many resources for students to do online, activities such as My American Farm and Journey 2050, as well as hands-on activities, lessons, interactive activities, virtual tours and other fun, educational activities on our key websites. We realize that not all students and teachers have good internet access and while at home, may have other challenges that are taking their attention such as caring for siblings, not having food or meals, and other family challenges.

The key websites to share are:

- www.wisagclassroom.org
- www.agclassroom.org
- www.agfoundation.org
- www.myamericanfarm.org
- www.journey2050.org

We also have many commodity groups that have interactive websites for teachers and students. Many Ag in the Classroom and commodity videos are on YouTube. There's a lot out there for you to share.

If Wisconsin AITC can be of help to you, please let us know! I am watching my emails and phone messages. Our office is currently open (as of March 18) and we are encouraged to work at home if possible. I have been sending out resources so feel free to order items through our online store. Just make sure that if they are going to your schools, there is someone in the office to accept mail. You might want to use your home address.

At this time, I am continuing to plan the summer trainings and bus tour. Watch for those registration forms to go online soon! And the Facebook page is my best way to share messages so please watch that!



Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Partnership Offers MORE Grants- this is an amazing book!!

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom has extended the application for the MORE for Agriculture grants to May 10.

The MORE for Agriculture grant is available to teachers in grades 7-12. The grant will provide 50 classroom sets of *The Hungry Planet* by Peter Menzel to participating classes in each state. The book details the food consumption of various families around the world. Companion educational lessons and resources will accompany the books.

“This is an exciting new opportunity for teachers to engage their students in learning about agriculture as it relates to the food that is eaten around the world,” said Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson.

Grant recipients are required to attend one of two, 3-hour trainings. Wisconsin training dates are Thursday, July 2 and Monday, July 13. You don't have to attend both- just one of the two!! The locations will be determined based on where the grant recipients are located.

Applications for the MORE for Agriculture grant are due May 10. Grant recipients will be notified by May 22.

Teachers in grades 7-12 can apply [here](#) or visit wisagclassroom.org/more-for-agriculture-grant/ more information. Online applications can be completed via Jot Form. If sent by mail, entries must be received by May 10.

This grant is made possible by the generous support of the Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America, the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial.

See some of the images from the book by visiting <https://menzelphoto.photoshelter.com/gallery/Hungry-Planet-Family-Food-Portraits/G0000zmgWvU6SiKM/C0000k7JgEHhEq0w>

"A beautiful and important book about one of the world's most important subjects." —Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*

HUNGRY PLANET



WHAT THE WORLD EATS

PETER MENZEL and FAITH D'ALUISIO • Foreword by Marion Nestle

What's coming up for Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom?

There are many opportunities for training in the summer for teachers and volunteers! Final details are being worked on but watch for registration information for:

- June 30- A workshop on the turf and soils industry for agricultural education instructors at the Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educator's Professional Development Conference in La Crosse.
- July 9- Ag in the Classroom and Soybean Science Kit training in Oshkosh
- July 27-28- Summer AITC Bus Tour in Green County
- August 14- Training on Skills based learning, Academic Career Planning, and AITC resources in Oconto Falls
- August 18- Training on Inquiry Based Education and teaching methods, AITC resources, school agriculture education department and farm tour in New Richmond
- August 22- Back to School Kick-Off at Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center in Manitowoc



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

Darlene Arneson

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom

darneson@wbf.com

608.828.5644

www.wisagclassroom.org