



April 9, 2020
**Ag in the Classroom Newsletter for
our Ag in the Classroom Teachers
and Home School Parents!**

Don't forget about the AFBFA White Reinhardt Resource Grants!

Purpose: To provide funds for educators to purchase ag literacy resources from the Ag Foundation store.

The purpose of these grants is to provide funds to educators to enable them to purchase accurate agricultural literacy materials from the AFBFA store for use in their classrooms. By providing this grant, AFBFA hopes to help students gain access to more accurate information about agriculture.

Eligibility: All educators may apply.

Application Guidelines:

- Applications are due June 30, 2020.
- All applicants will receive notification by July 17, 2020.
- 50 educators will win \$100 store credits.
- If more than 50 educators apply for these grants, eligible educators will be randomly selected to receive the grants.
- Grantees will be issued a \$100 credit to the AFBFA store. This credit may only be used on AFBFA resource items. A list will be provided of unacceptable purchases. We expect the purchases to be made within 30 days of receiving the grant. If the grant is not used within this period, AFBFA reserves the right to revoke the grant, and make the grant available to someone else. Receipt must be sent to foundation@fb.org within 7 days of purchase.
- Following purchase, grantees are required to send a copy of their order receipt to foundation@fb.org so that we may confirm that the funds have been properly spent.
- Since much of our funding comes from individual donors, grantees will be asked to write a thank you note to a donor explaining how they plan to use the purchased materials. Notes should be submitted no later than 1 month after purchase has been made.
- Grantees will be asked, but not required, to take a picture of themselves or their students using the materials and send it to AFBFA. NOTE: If students are in photos a photo release form must be signed by a guardian of each student.

<https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/white-reinhardt-resource-grants>

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

Considering applying and sharing it with other staff in your school! This fits so many curriculum areas!!

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

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. **At this time, only 10 Wisconsin teachers have applied and I have room for 40 more!** This grant is made possible by the generous support of the Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America, the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial.

"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 DALUISIO • Foreword by Marion Nestle

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?" **Teachers or parents may send entries directly 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. **Entries can be sent directly from homes or school to Wisconsin AITC, PO Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705.**
- **Online PDFs** of "This Business Called Ag," "An Agricultural Career for You" and both Educator Guides, and the World of Corn book are now available on the online order page for each book. So if you want to share that PDF or just need one copy, feel free to download and share!
- We are still processing **online orders**. I go into the office about once a week to fill the orders and get mail.
- At this time, I am continuing to plan the summer trainings and bus tour. Watch for those registration forms to go online soon! The Facebook page is the best way to share messages so please watch that.



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

As of now, the National Conference in June 23-26 in Salt Lake City, Utah is still on. **A final decision has to be made by May 13. The early-bird registration deadline has been extended to May 15.** 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.

Updates on online resources

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.journey2050.com/j2050-at-home/
- www.myamericanfarm.com
- <http://intotheoutdoors.org>
- <http://eeinwisconsin.org/core/item/page.aspx?s=118191.0.0.2209>
- www.biotech.wisc.edu/biotrek/biotrekresources

Check out all the new eLearning resources at
<https://www.agclassroom.org/eLearning/index.cfm>

eLearning

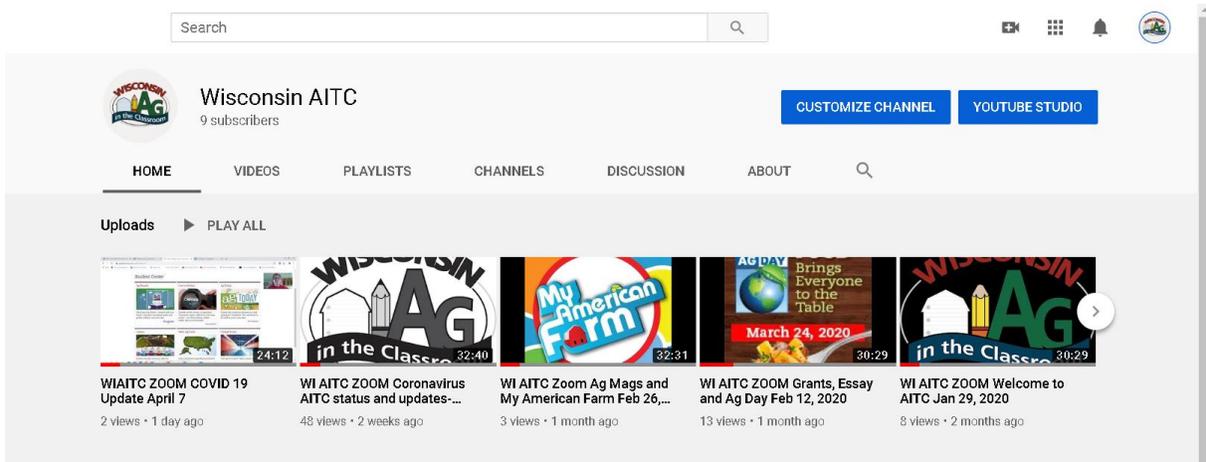


eLearning outreach is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience

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.

ZOOM Meetings- found on YouTube on the Wisconsin AITC Channel

We just recorded another ZOOM update on April 7 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.



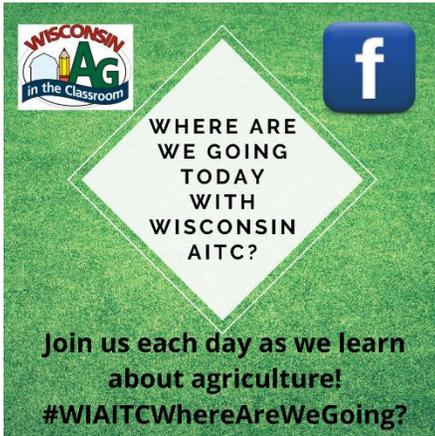
What's coming up for Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom?

At this time, we are planning on hosting these but will wait to make the registration links live until we have the Shelter at Home restrictions lifted and learn more about summer and what can be planned. There have been a number of cancellations of early summer events that we've been made aware of.

There are many opportunities for training in the summer for teachers and volunteers!

- **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

Travel with us each day as we virtually visit agriculture, natural resource and other venues! Here's a worksheet for teachers and parents to use to supplement the videos. **Find the posts on our Facebook page:**
Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program
#WIAITCWhereAreWeGoing?



Today we went to:

What town is this location in? _____ What county? _____

What state is it in? _____ Can you find it on a map?

What are five jobs associated with this location?

What fact surprised you the most?

What classes would be helpful in order to work at this location?

Would you want to work here? _____ Why or why not?

Write a short paragraph describing this location (at least 4-5 sentences).

Ag in the Classroom Awards Grants to Fund Ag Literacy Projects

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Ag in the Classroom program has awarded \$6,749 to schools and organizations to expand agricultural literacy. Groups, schools and organizations can apply for up to \$500 as part of the Ag in the Classroom's matching grant program to support a project, provided they have a source of matching funds. The 18 matching grant recipients are:

Bonduel Elementary Garden Committee, Elementary School Garden: \$500, Bonduel

The Bonduel Elementary School is excited to create a green garden space. The goal is to do the kick-off on the first annual Wisconsin School Garden Day. A contest was given to each class to think of a name for their garden. The garden will include a fenced-in-area with raised beds for vegetables and flowers, a garden shed constructed by the tech ed students, along with picnic tables for outside classroom activities. Wood chips will provide a base for the walkways. This will be a natural, calming, learning oasis for the students and staff.

Brown County Dairy Promotions, Agricultural Literacy: \$500, Green Bay

Brown County Dairy Promotions continues to promote the agriculture industry with a focus on dairy during the county breakfast on the farm. This event creates a better understanding of where food comes from and who grows it, builds awareness and a positive perception of agriculture through education. The grant will purchase educational barn banners, Ag Mags and agricultural career posters, food and farm fact products and other educational materials.

Building a Better Forest, Deep Mulch Gardening: \$500, Independence

'Building a Better Forest' is an educational and active learning program for pre-K thru 12th grade students and adults. This program will create meaningful experiences to help improve the well-being of individuals by teaching them how to grow vegetables and fruits. The deep mulch garden activities are helping students understand the basics of gardening. Students will define deep mulch gardening and explain why it is important. Students also will build mini gardens.

Chain Exploration Center, Growing Seeds, Growing Students: \$500, Waupaca

The Chain Exploration School will establish and maintain an outdoor greenhouse. The school has an on-site community garden that provides learning opportunities for students and families. The grant will be used to provide additional materials such as seeds, hoses, shelves and soil for the garden.

Cows on the Concourse, Cows on the Concourse Event: \$500, Madison

An annual event, Cows on the Concourse is a 'dairy' good time for families. Located near the Madison Capitol Square, this free event provides children and adults opportunities to get close to cows and calves, enjoy hot grilled cheese sandwiches and ice-cold milk and learn from educational stations staffed by Wisconsin dairy farmers and volunteers.

Easter Seals Wisconsin, Exploring Job Options in Rural Wisconsin: \$500, Madison

Easter Seals Wisconsin Exploring Job Options in Rural Wisconsin program allows students to think about the hundreds of careers related to farming and agriculture. The grant will be used for classes to teach students with disabilities about the vast agricultural career opportunities in Wisconsin. These classes will encourage students to see how their interests could potentially fit into the agriculture industry, which is Wisconsin's largest employer and industry.

Eau Claire Friends of the Fair, Blue Ribbon Kid's Day: \$500, Eau Claire

'The Blue-Ribbon Kid's Club' will be a new educational activity at the Eau Claire County Fair showcasing agriculture in the Chippewa Valley. The Augusta FFA Alumni, A-1 Tent Rental and Eau Claire County Farm Bureau will work together to sponsor this two-day educational event. The grant will be used to buy supplies for hands-on learning stations and agricultural goodie bags for participants.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac Agri-Business Council, Day on the Farm: \$500, Fond du Lac

Hundreds of kindergarten and first-grade students from Fond du Lac County schools will experience first-hand what happens on a farm. Students will participate in activities that will provide a closer look at the farm. Students will have access to farm animals, what the animals eat and how they are cared for. Students will receive a packet to share with others.

Glenwood City High School Ag Department, Learning to Grow Center Improvements: \$500, Glenwood City

A few years ago, the Learning to Grow Center was the brainchild of a few horticulture students. Staff have designed the center with the idea of teaching young people how to grow food and eat healthy. The improvements to the site will add crop diversity, improved fruit management and weed control. Using the grant money, the goal is to expand the project purchasing trellising lumber, cables, cedar for raised beds, tomato trellising, fruit plants and weed barriers.

Iowa-Grant FFA Chapter, Agricultural Lab Stations: \$500, Livingston

The Iowa-Grant FFA is purchasing eight stainless steel worktables to enhance the agricultural lessons being taught in animal science, crop science, food science and soil science classes for students in grades 9 thru 12. These new tables will provide lab stations for students to explore new concepts within the agricultural field.

Luck High School Ag Department, Cultivating Agriculture for Luck: \$500, Luck

The Luck Agriculture Education Program offers Ag Day on the Lawn to promote agriculture to pre-K thru 12th grade students who attend Luck Schools, along with community members and surrounding daycares. The funds will be used to purchase ag fact signs that will be placed throughout the lawn during the event, along with agriculturally themed activities for the students to participate in while at the event.

Portage FFA Chapter, Food for America: \$500, Portage

The Portage Community School District FFA is immersing area youth in agricultural education through two hands-on agricultural opportunities. In fall, more than 300 elementary school students will visit and tour an area farm and learn about the large world of agriculture. In the spring, FFA members will visit the elementary school classrooms and engage students in hands-on, student-designed lessons related to agriculture.

Rock County Ag in the Classroom, Ag in the Classroom Training of Trainers Model: \$500, Janesville

The Ag in the Classroom Training of Trainers (ToT) Educator model is intended to engage experienced trainers in coaching new educators who are less experienced with Ag in the Classroom experiential educational opportunities and resources. Funds will be used to sponsor 10 educators to attend the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Summer Bus Tour, provide them with copies of book of the year and related educational resources and for them to attend the Rock County Farm Bureau meeting.

D.C. Everest 4K at St. John's Lutheran, Our Pollinating Partners: \$299, Wausau

The grant will be used to help grow milk weed and hatch monarch butterflies in the classroom. The butterflies will be transferred to an outdoor classroom, which is called Timberland. Also, funds will be used to grow vegetables that will be transplanted into the outdoor classroom. Students will learn about science, math and art as they learn the importance of pollinators in our environment and food production.

Sigma Alpha Beta Delta at UW-Platteville, Agriculture Day on the Farm: \$500, Platteville

Sigma Alpha Beta Delta is a professional women's agricultural sorority built on the pillars of scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service. On Ag Day on the Farm, Sigma Alpha Beta Delta members teach fourth-grade students about agriculture at the University Pioneer Farm. A total of 10 stations are set up by sorority members and students can learn and explore each topic relating to agriculture, specifically agriculture in southwestern Wisconsin.

Taylor County Farm Bureau, C.O.W.S: \$500, Medford

The Taylor County Farm Bureau is working with fourth-grade teachers in the county to enhance the Wisconsin unit on agriculture. The grant will be used to help fund donations of the book of the year, Ag Mags and food and farm fact resources including activity cards, junior books, pocket guides, pencils and other books. Also, local farmers share what they do on their farms.

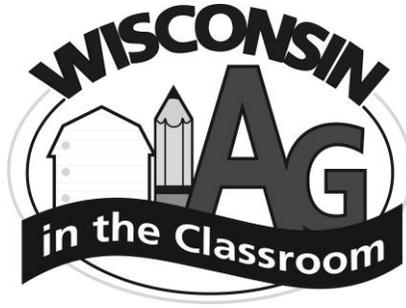
Walworth County Fair Barnyard Adventures: Growing to Learn Raised Perennial Crop Beds, \$500, Elkhorn

The Barnyard Adventure at the Walworth County Fair will feature new 'Growing to Learn Raised Perennial Crop Garden Beds.' The raised beds will feature a variety of perennial crops, including legumes and oilseeds. The funds will be used to purchase supplies including lumber and hardware to build the raised garden beds, composted, soil, perennial seeds, reusable signage and pamphlets.

Wanish Sugar Bush LLC, Sap to Syrup Workshop: \$450, Colfax

The project will help provide an educational workshop for Chippewa County 4-H members to learn the process of making maple syrup. The workshop will give attendees a unique inside-view of collecting, processing and securing pure maple syrup. Attendees will explore the multi-step process to make maple syrup and how to improve the quality of the end-product.

[Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom](#) program provides teachers and K-12 students with an understanding of how their food is produced. The program seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry: Agriculture. Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom program is carried out by a network of local educators, volunteers and representatives from agricultural organizations and businesses. The goal of the program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role agriculture plays in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.



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

wisagclassroom.org