



2020-2021 Essay Contest for 4th and 5th Grade Students Presented by Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom

How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?

This year's essay contest topic is "How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?" Our 2021 Book of the Year is "**Full of Beans- Henry Ford Grows a Car**" by Peggy Thomas. The book and essay topic allow students to explore how soybeans can be used in so many ways including food, animal feed, energy, cars and much more! The book shares how Henry Ford used soybeans not only in cars, but in his clothes, and food. 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, 2021** 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 2021.
- Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May 2021 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, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Wisconsin Soybean Association, 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 2021 Book of the Year "**Full of Beans**" 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:

- How are Wisconsin soybeans grown, harvested, processed and marketed?
- What products do many citizens use that are made of soybeans?
- How are soybeans used in fuel production?
- What kind of economic impact do soybeans have in Wisconsin?

Use your imagination and creativity to think of other items to write about!

Want to learn more about science and soybeans? Use one of our Soybean Science Kits sponsored by the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Association!

Learn more at

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/lessons-resources/classroom-lessons/soybean-science-kits/>

The Soybean Science Kit is an engaging, interesting hands-on approach that teaches 4th to 9th graders the physical properties of polymers and oil, while instilling an appreciation for the use of biological, renewable resources in industrial manufacturing.

On the Web

National Ag in the Classroom matrix- search for soybean, sustainability, and other lessons!

<https://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/>

<https://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/lessonplan.cfm?lpid=740>

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 Soybean Resources- Links to learn about soybeans in our state! <https://coolbean.info/>,

<https://wisoybean.org/>, <https://badgerbean.com/>,

Into the Outdoors- Soybean Farming- <https://intotheoutdoors.org/topics/soybean-farming/>

Driving STEM-Super Soybean Car YouTube Workshop- From the National Ag in the Classroom, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, and Ford Motor Company- <https://youtu.be/SWECSoeqqHo>

Ford Motor Company Resources- Sustainability- <https://corporate.ford.com/microsites/sustainability-report-2020/sustainability-strategy.html> **The Henry Ford** <https://www.thehenryford.org/education/>

How to help students determine what to write:

- Discuss how agriculture impacts them using the sub-points in the box above. Students are NOT limited to the sub-points- these are just ideas to get them starting thinking!
- Using lessons from National Ag in the Classroom, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, and other sources to learn more about agriculture in their area.

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.