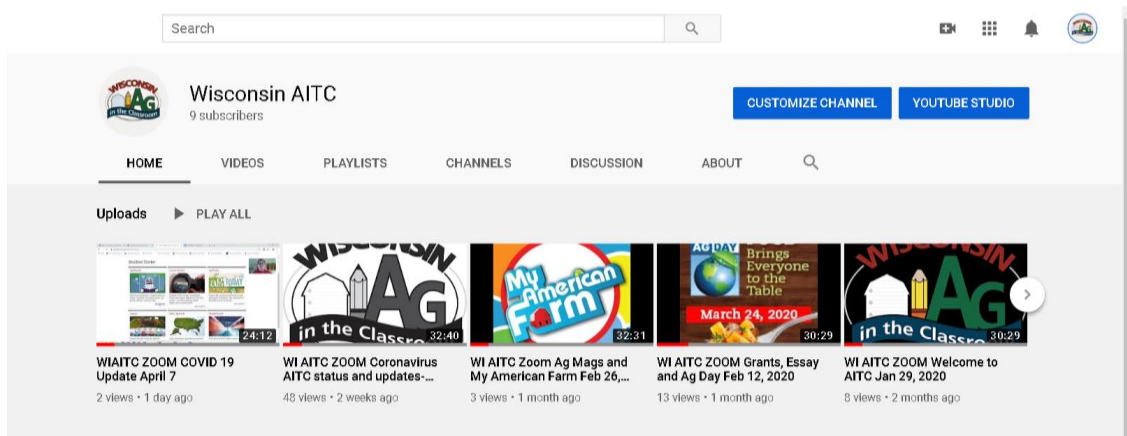




**December 2020**  
**Ag in the Classroom Newsletter for**  
**our Ag in the Classroom Teachers**  
**and Home School Parents!**

## Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Training Tuesdays

Each Tuesday we are posting a new video on the Wisconsin AITC YouTube channel featuring an educational resource. These are to help replace items that we'd be covering in our summer AITC trainings. You can go back to the channel at any time to view the videos.



[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1QIJdZhJkakm\\_9wPQw8zSehD](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1QIJdZhJkakm_9wPQw8zSehD)

## Watch for our Monthly Theme Resources



Starting in October, we will have monthly theme resources for your students. We will feature an animal and crop and have links to lessons, videos, hands-on activities, and other resources for elementary, middle and high school students. Watch for these on our website under Resources.

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/monthly-themes/>



**Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom  
December ZOOM Call Forums**

Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 12-1 PM

Thursday, Dec. 10 from 12-1 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 5-6 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 30 from 5-6 PM

We will be hosting four sessions lasting about 40 minutes long to help answer any questions that teachers and volunteers have! Darlene Arneson will have a short update at the start and then will open things up for questions, sharing, comments and suggestions! Join on one or all of them! **Please don't click on the link until 5 minutes before the session starts!**

**Topic: WI AITC Volunteer and Teacher Sharing Session- December 2**

Time: Dec 2, 2020 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72138037059?pwd=V3hlZjRsNXVMVW1TQIFoTmFyM1E1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 721 3803 7059

Passcode: 0z6yKn

**Topic: WI AITC Volunteer and Teacher Sharing Session- December 10**

Time: Dec 10, 2020 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73770113748?pwd=UzhkaDNubDczS0d3Z0xPM0w3cnZOZz09>

Meeting ID: 737 7011 3748

Passcode: R3tdzS

**Topic: WI AITC Volunteer and Teacher Sharing Session- December 16**

Time: Dec 16, 2020 05:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78020235381?pwd=eUVHRTJaR1ZIUIR0WVBwbEVIUTVMUT09>

Meeting ID: 780 2023 5381

Passcode: D3YH0H

**Topic: WI AITC Volunteer and Teacher Sharing Session- December 30**

Time: Dec 30, 2020 05:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73169477530?pwd=NVFxbHJOeDVjNIMwdktXQ3dyOUITUT09>

Meeting ID: 731 6947 7530

Passcode: pQ2f0r

**National Ag Day Changes for 2021-**

**<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/national-ag-day-2/>**

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is encouraging students in PreK- 12<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in sharing their creativity by submitting an entry for National Ag Day. National Ag Day is celebrated nationwide on March 23, 2021, but due to COVID-19 and many possible restrictions, in-person events may not be happening as usual.

The National Ag Day organization's theme for 2021 is "Food brings everyone to the table". Entries can portray different kinds of foods the students like; show what farmers, processors, and others do to bring food from the "farm to table"; share fun facts about food; or show things they'd like to share about food. The national group also has student contests, downloadable materials, and ideas of how to celebrate National Ag Day. They can be found at [agday.org](http://agday.org).

The Wisconsin activity has a page that is designed so the images can be printed on Avery 5126 Rectangular Labels (5 1/2" H x 11" W) and two per sheet. The stickers can be used on carry-out bags, folders, pizza boxes, grocery store bags, take-home packets for students, and other uses to help promote National Ag Day, agriculture, or other activities. Entries are due postmarked March 31, 2021.

There are three grade-level groups: PreK – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Through a random drawing, ten entries from each grade level group will receive a \$10 Culvers card. All entries will be sent Ag in the Classroom resources.

**Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom 2021 Ag Day Activity**  
**Open to all Wisconsin students in Pre-Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade**  
**“Food brings everyone to the table”**

To celebrate National Ag Day on March 23, 2021, this activity allows students to share the different ways that farmers bring food to their tables. Entries can portray different kinds of foods the students like; show what farmers, processors, and others do to bring food from the “farm to table”; share fun facts about food; or show things they’d like to share about food.

The page is designed so the images can be printed on Avery 5126 rectangular Labels (5 1/2” x 8 x 11”) and two per sheet. The stickers can be used on carry-out bags, folders, pizza boxes, grocery store bags, take-home packets for students, and other uses to help promote National Ag Day, agriculture, or other activities. The original drawing is sent to WI AITC but we encourage students to make a copy to keep for themselves!

**Recognition: There are three grade level groups:**

- PreK – 3<sup>rd</sup> grades
- 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades

Through a random drawing, ten entries from each grade level group will receive a \$10 Culvers card. All entries will be sent Ag in the Classroom resources.

**Rules:**

- Open to Wisconsin students in Pre-K– 12<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2021 or emailed by 11:59 PM that night. Hard copies should be sent to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, PO Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705.
- Nothing identifying the student can be on the two front sections. The form must be attached separately or put on the back of the entry.
- All artwork must be original, done exclusively by the student, and without any copyrighted characters or clip art. No computer-generated art.

**This should be either typed or printed legibly.**

**Student’s name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age** \_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent’s name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home address (complete with street, city and zip)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**By submitting the entry, the applicant and parent/adult guardian give permission to Wisconsin Farm Bureau- Ag in the Classroom to use the entries for publication, social media, sharing images for others to use, and become the property of Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom.**

**Parent signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Food Brings Everyone to the Table**  
**Ag Day 2021- Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom**

**Food Brings Everyone to the Table**  
**Ag Day 2021- Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom**

## **Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Teacher Mini-Grant Recipients**

### **Agriculture Education Station- Kirsten Konder- Luck Public Schools, Luck**

Students in middle school agriculture class will research one area of Wisconsin agriculture and become well versed in the commodity. They will make a tri-fold display and give presentations to their class, and later to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students during their agriculture units. The displays will also be used during the Luck Ag on the Lawn Event in May which hosts more than 500 students. The grant will help purchase display boards for each student.

### **Hydroponic System- Stephanie DeVries- Cambria-Friesland Schools, Cambria**

The grant will be used towards a hydroponic tower garden to use in middle-high school agriculture classes. The mobile resource can be moved from classroom to classroom in their K-12 building. The garden can help students learn about plant growth, pollination, food environment, and hydroponics. The grant will be used to help purchase the structure, mineral blend, rock wool cubes, pots and seeds.

### **Little Gardens with Big Hopes! – Cheri Oglesby- St. Rose of Lima, Cuba City**

This Pre-K project will allow the students to make a garden in a bucket. Each child will choose the food seeds they would like to plant as they learn about how seeds germinate, grow and produce food. They will also learn about soil and compost. With the uncertainty of COVID, this project can be done at school or at home. The grant will help purchase the garden tools, watering cans, buckets, potting soil and seeds.

### **Pandemic Possibilities! – Kirstin Thompson- Greenfield Elementary, Baldwin**

This timely interdisciplinary project will emphasize a balanced literacy approach to teaching students to be self-sufficient during a pandemic and the precious oral history and rural life skill educational opportunities that are a vanishing part of our heritage in Wisconsin. The grant will be used to purchase agricultural-based informational texts that students can use to do their research and give them background information. They will follow-up with interviews of community members.

### **“Virtual” Adopt-an-Animal- Amy Gerhardt- School District of Neillsville, Neillsville**

The Neillsville FFA will partner with elementary classrooms for an “Adopt-an-Animal” project. They will have monthly virtual interactions with the elementary classes to help them learn about animals, what they eat, how they are cared for, health, and other topics. The high school students will be learning how to share information using technology, improving communication and speaking skills, and creating educational programming while staying within COVID-19 parameters. The grant will be used to purchase a camera tripod, carrying bag, cable and camera.



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

Darlene Arneson, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom

[darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) 608-828-5644 [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org)

## **Rio Teacher Recognized for Agricultural Literacy Work**

Lori Bongert, a fourth-grade teacher at Rio Elementary School in Columbia County, 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.

"Lori has been working closely with Columbia County's Ag in the Classroom Program for many years with the essay contest and using our materials," said Darlene Arneson, Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Coordinator.

Bongert has local farmers visit her classroom and help with commodity presentations on corn, soybeans, and honey. She has hosted the Wisconsin Spudmobile, Alice in Dairyland and Master Gardeners to enhance her lessons and units. She works with agricultural businesses to furnish sweet corn, cranberries and soybeans for her students to use. She received a grant to construct a micro-garden wagon which the whole district can use to learn about raising plants.

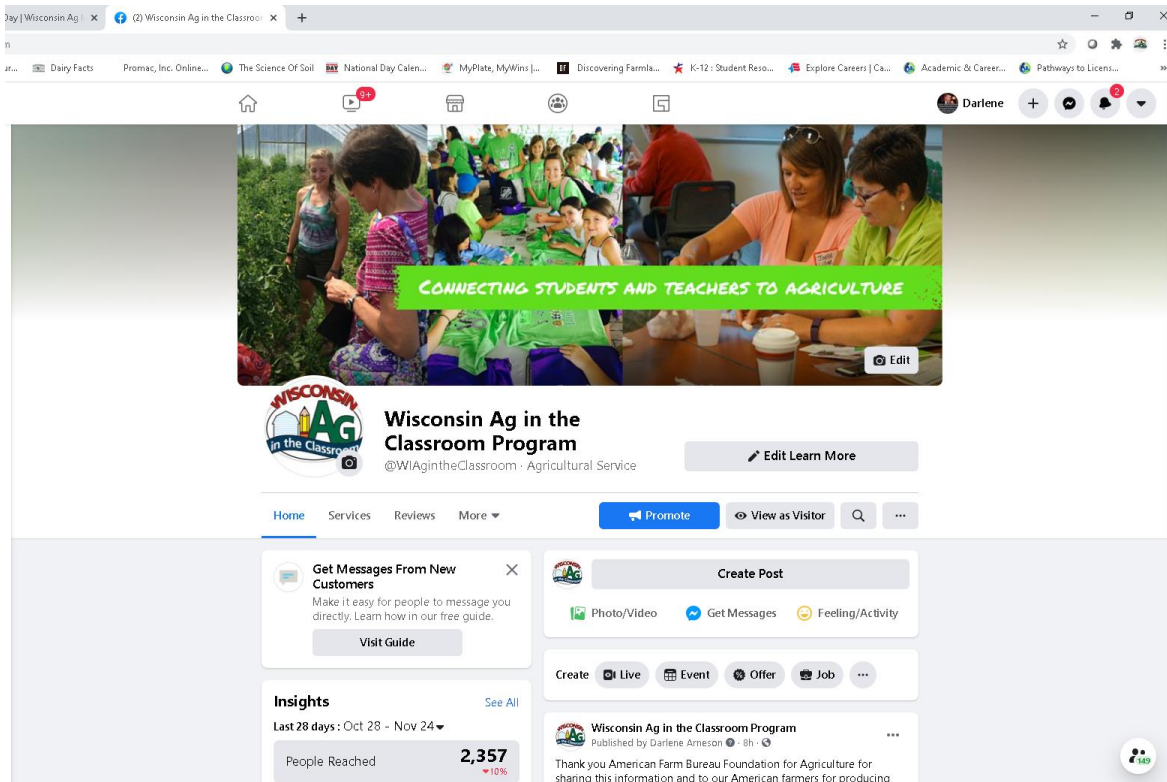
Bongert earned her Bachelor of Science degree in education from UW-Platteville and her master's degree from National Louis University. Growing up on a hog farm near Poynette, she shares her love of agriculture and her experience as Fairest of the Fair in 2002 to develop her students' understanding of agriculture and where their food comes from. She taught first-grade in her first year at Rio and moved to fourth grade for the past eleven years.

Bongert will be Wisconsin's nominee for the National Excellence in Teaching Agriculture Award and will receive a \$500 sponsorship to attend the 2021 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Des Moines, IA or to use for educational resources.



Columbia County AITC Coordinator Joanne Dalton, Lori Bongert, and Columbia County Farm Bureau President Jayne Nakielski

## Don't miss the daily posts!



The screenshot shows a Facebook page for the 'Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program'. The page features a cover photo of a group of people, including students and teachers, in a classroom setting. A green banner across the photo reads 'CONNECTING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO AGRICULTURE'. Below the cover photo is the profile picture, which is the 'Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom' logo, and the page name 'Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program' with the handle '@WIAgintheClassroom' and 'Agricultural Service'. The page has a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Services', 'Reviews', and 'More'. There are also buttons for 'Promote', 'View as Visitor', and 'Edit Learn More'. A 'Get Messages From New Customers' widget is visible, along with a 'Create Post' section with options for 'Photo/Video', 'Get Messages', and 'Feeling/Activity'. An 'Insights' section shows 'People Reached' as 2,357 with a 10% increase. A recent post is visible at the bottom, published by Darlene Arneson, thanking the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

## Don't forget to have students working on the 2020-2021 Essay Contest

The 2020-2021 Wisconsin Essay Contest topic is "How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?" The topic is based off of the Book of the Year "Full of Beans- Henry Ford Grows a Car," written by Peggy Thomas. The contest is for Wisconsin fourth- and fifth-grade students and entries are due April 1, 2021.

The documents below include the teacher's handbook, volunteer handbook, lessons and activities and the contest information sheet. The list of county essay coordinators will be added once they are confirmed.



A series of YouTube videos are available on the [Wisconsin AITC channel and are grouped in an Essay and Book Playlist.](#)

Essay submissions must be 100-to-300 words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The contest is sponsored by Wisconsin Soybean Association, We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.