



April 2021
**Ag in the Classroom Newsletter for
our Ag in the Classroom Volunteers!**



Registrations are open for in-person or virtual National Conference
Find your “Field of Dreams” at the National Ag in the Classroom Conference!

<https://www.agclassroom.org/conference/> and <https://youtu.be/yFrH6zJP58M>

The 2021 National Ag in the Classroom Conference will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, on June 28-July 1, 2021 at the Iowa Event Center/Hilton Des Moines Downtown. It will be offered as a "hybrid" conference, which means it will hold it in person for the people who can travel and live streaming/virtual for the people who can't travel.

Online registration will go live the week of March 1, and the early registration deadline will be extended to June 1 to allow for flexibility as people determine if they are allowed to travel and decide if they feel comfortable traveling. The early rate for in-person registration is \$435. The virtual registration rate is \$50. We want to assure everyone that social distancing measures, including mask wearing, will be implemented to keep everyone safe at the conference.

The National Agriculture in the Classroom conference brings together hundreds of teachers, volunteers, informal educators, and industry experts from across the country to share ideas, network, and celebrate agricultural literacy. The conference moves to a different region every year and is only in the Midwest every four years. This will be the first time that it has been hosted in Iowa. With the conference so close to Wisconsin, we want to see as many of our Wisconsin teachers and volunteers attend as possible!

With the size of the conference and the need to have a large force of volunteers and staff, it's unlikely that Wisconsin will host the conference anytime in the near future. So, we want to take advantage of this opportunity! On County Ag in the Classroom reports, we notice that many counties do not spend the full amount their county budgeted for Ag in the Classroom. Perhaps this opportunity could help a county utilize their full budget along with some additional dollars from the county Farm Bureau.

Updates from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom on summer plans

At the time this goes online (March 29), we do not have permission to start planning in-person events on a state-wide level. Hopefully our leadership will be making decisions in the next few weeks and then we can share that information with you!

Summer Bus Tour- right now it's being planned for July 13-14 in Green County. Some of our initial venues are not letting visitors in at this time. If we have the tour on the dates planned, there is likely to be some changes in venues as well as how we operate the bus tour to insure everyone's safety.

Summer Trainings- At this time we don't have any scheduled. I am hopeful to have 1-2 in the summer with one having time to select our Book of the Year. We also will continue the Training Tuesdays and likely will have a series of virtual workshops on a variety of topics.

Back to School Kick-Off- I am hopeful to have a kick-off in August to announce our Book of the Year and Essay Contest information. We don't have the date or venue at this time, but again will let you know as soon as we confirm it.

Essay Contest District Winner Presentations- Due to most schools not allowing visitors, it is unlikely that we will be making in-person presentations unless the winner's schools are allowing visitors or outside presentations. We will know that by mid-May as we go through the judging process.

STEM Career Presentations continue on Thursdays through April 22

4-H Scientists Live – Engage with a STEM career speaker! Grab your lunch and learn about careers in STEM! Register for the 1st session by March 3, 2021. Trying to decide what career might be right for you? Explore some intriguing science-related career possibilities while meeting and interacting with real world scientists. Join us for Scientists Live, a virtual 4-H career series set to kick off on March 4 via Zoom. Eight consecutive 30-minute episodes will happen on Thursdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. through April 22. Doesn't fit your schedule? No problem. At your request, we can send you a link to access the recording. Register to participate individually. ...or if you are an educator, sign up to participate as a class or group. Sign up at least 24 hours before the first episode you plan to attend. Participation is absolutely free.

<https://lafayette.extension.wisc.edu/2021/02/09/4-h-scientists-live/>

Academic and Career Planning

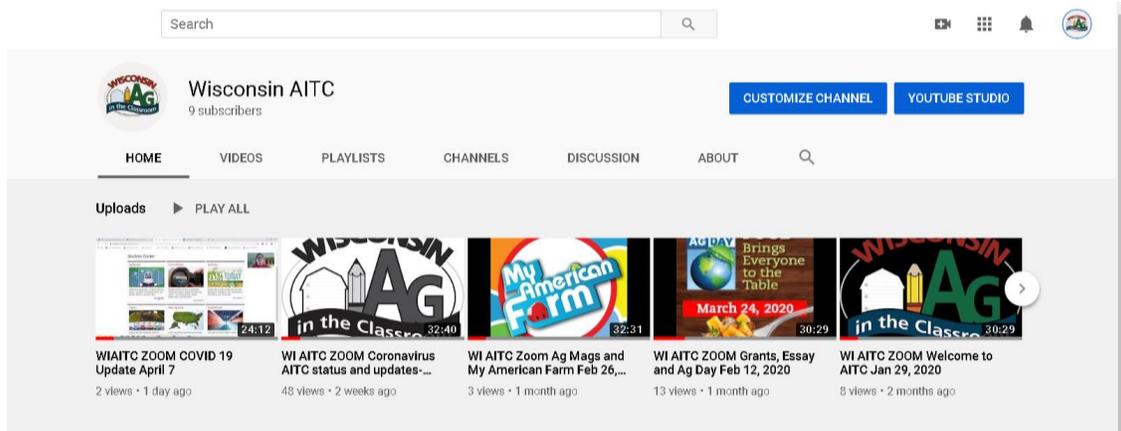
From the DPI- WISCONSIN ACP LESSONS FOR GRADES 6-9 ARE NOW ON XELLO!

Remember the [Wisconsin ACP Lessons](#) for grades 6-9 that we shared with you a while back? Well, now you can access the table of contents directly in Xello under "Archived Assignments" Simply download the resources or assignments you want to share with your students and then add them as a dashboard resource or assignment!

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/acp/pdf/2020_11_23_Wisconsin_ACP_Lessons_1.pdf

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=PLUvmuVa0n1QIJdZhJkkm_9wPQw8zSehD

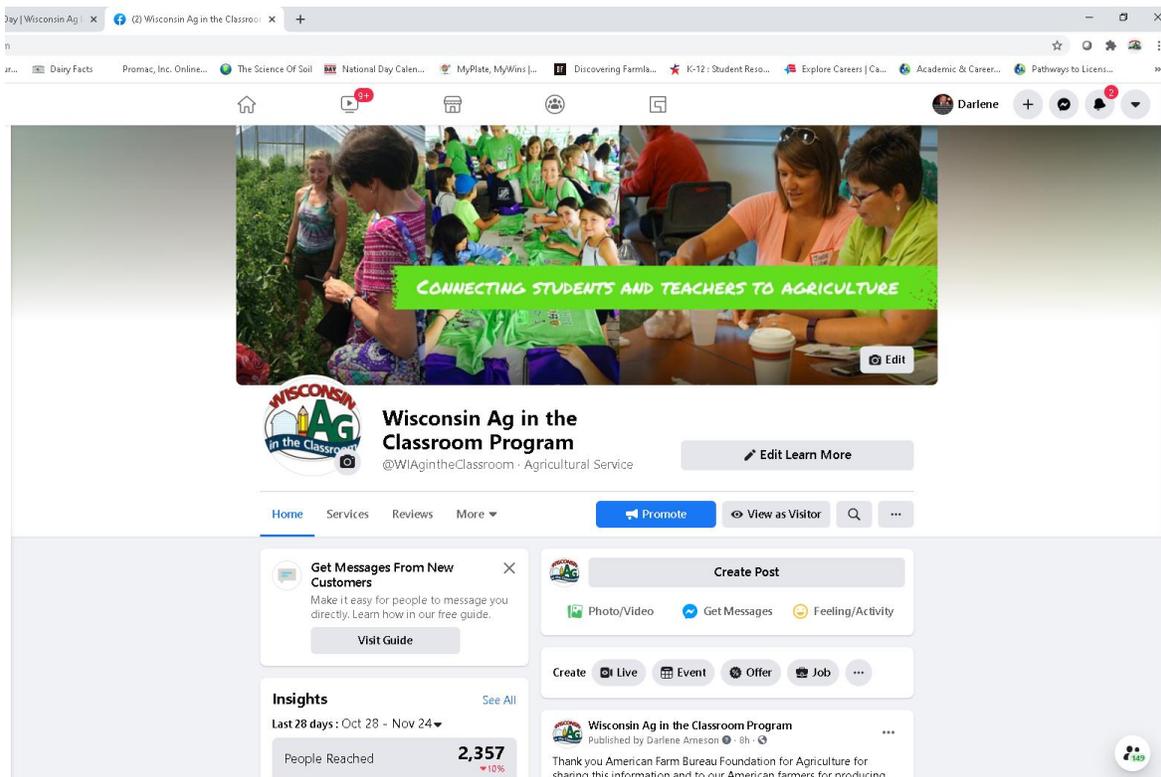
Watch for our Monthly Theme Resources



Starting in October, we have been posting monthly theme resources for your students. We feature an animal and crop and have links to lessons, videos, hands-on activities, and other resources for elementary, middle and high school students.

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

Don't miss the daily posts!



Turfgrass Program ZOOM Offerings

The 2020 Wisconsin Farm Facts focused on careers in the green industry. Here is a great opportunity for school counselors, agriculture education instructors, technology education, and science teachers to view and share with students and their parents about a program that can prepare students (and adults!) for careers in that field. The University of Wisconsin - Madison Turfgrass Program is excited to announce that 1 and 2-year Turfgrass Management programs will be offered beginning in the Fall of 2021. These programs are in addition to the current 4-year Turf Management degree that has been in place for decades. The 1- and 2-year certificates will be run through UW-Madison's Farm and Industry Short Course, and classes each year will begin in late October and end in mid-March. This is a hands-on, in-person degree led by UW-Madison turfgrass professors Doug Soldat and Paul Koch that will prepare interested students for a career in turfgrass management. This program will benefit all those interested in a career in turfgrass management, but may be particularly attractive for non-traditional students or those students already employed in the turfgrass industry but looking for career advancement.

Much more information on the new 1 and 2-year programs, including costs and the class schedule, can be found at the UW Turf Program's website (<https://turf.wisc.edu/academics/>). To enroll in the program for Fall 2021, please visit the Farm and Industry Short Course enrollment site (<https://fisc.cals.wisc.edu/apply-now/>). Doug Soldat and Paul Koch will be hosting a series of Zoom discussions with interested students and employers of interested students to briefly introduce the program and answer any questions. **The sessions will be held at noon central time on March 8th, April 12th, and June 7th.**

Click on this link to register for one of the sessions: <https://forms.gle/U4aqmyeTGspFWKpd6>

Lots of new resources from the USDA MyPlate!



<https://www.myplate.gov/>

Make the last week of National Nutrition Month® count! MyPlate is here to help you finish out the month with healthy eating in mind. We encourage you to continue promoting the importance of eating healthfully at every stage of life. Browse our newly redesigned website for tools, tips, and resources to meet your audience's needs.

- [Toolkits for Professionals](#): These 4 toolkits serve as guides to communicate MyPlate messages for dietitians, public health, educators, food industry, and communications partners.
- [MyPlate Quiz](#): Take the quiz to get a snapshot of how you're doing on the MyPlate food groups and receive personalized resources and tip sheets.
- [Start Simple with MyPlate App](#): Our app encourages users to set simple daily food group goals, see progress and earn badges to celebrate success! Sync results from the MyPlate Quiz to set goals in the app. Available in the App Store and Google Play.
- [Life Stage Pages](#): From infancy to adulthood, including pregnancy and breastfeeding, this section of the website tailors guidance to Americans at 10 different stages of life.
- [Print Materials](#): Browse free, printable handouts and tip sheets that are searchable by audience and topic; some are available in Spanish.

New Resources from National AITC's AgroWorld!

<https://agclassroom.org/agroworld/>



Science, Technology, and Engineering



SCIENCE AND OUR FOOD SUPPLY
Exploring **Food Agriculture** and **Biotechnology**

**Science and Our Food Supply:
Exploring Food Agriculture and Biotechnology**

This new curriculum introduces selective breeding and a subset of techniques used in genetic engineering. Explore the complete [PDF packets](#) or find the individual activities on the Matrix where they have been paired with relevant lesson plans for [middle school](#) and [high school](#).

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Vertical Farm Run by AI and Robots

See how a 2-acre vertical farm outproduces a 720-acre flat farm. In terms of sustainability, what pros and cons can you find in vertical farming?



Employment Opportunities for College Graduates

See the employment outlook for 2020-2025 in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources and the environment.

Social Studies: History, Economics, and Geography



Geography and Climate for Agricultural Landscapes

Discover how geography and climate influence the crops that are grown and the livestock that is raised in each state.

DAIRY FARMERS OF WISCONSIN- RESOURCES TO PROMOTE DAIRY

National Dairy Month looks much different than in years past and we will need to consider options that will allow volunteers and consumers to safely celebrate America's Dairyland. Here is your all access pass for National Dairy Month materials, resources and event information to help you successfully promote and celebrate dairy.

<https://wisconsindairy.org/Promote-Dairy/dairy-month-promotion>



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