



June 2021

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

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Summer Learning Opportunities

Go to <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/training-workshops/> for live links to register! All are **FREE!** The first one starts next week!

These are open to teachers of all subjects and grade levels, pre-service students, librarians, home school parents, AITC volunteers, FFA members working with Food for America, 4-H and extension and others involved in agricultural literacy or PreK-12th grade education!



UW-Biotrek Science Workshop

Thursday, June 17, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM via ZOOM

Presenter: Liz Jesse, Biotechnology Outreach Specialist

Register now at [FILL OUT FORM](#)

A ZOOM meeting link will be emailed to all registered participants the day before the training.

Bio: Liz Jesse is a Biotechnology Outreach Specialist at the UW Biotechnology Center. She worked as a middle and high school classroom teacher for ten years, at both public and public charter schools in the Sheboygan Area. Liz's outreach focuses on designing and implementing curriculum for biology and chemistry workshops for the public; with an emphasis on K-12 students.

Kitchen Science Savvy involves coaching youth to develop their science experimentation skills in response to some puzzle questions, leading off with "Which Makes Better Bubbles, Skim Milk or Whole?" We also go on to invite the youth to test if, as many people claim, milk fat in whole milk is essential in getting the "Milk Fireworks" effect with food dyes. We will also take a virtual tour of the UW Biotechnology Center as a part of this workshop.

Required Materials: Skim milk (1cup), whole milk (1 cup), three cups (clear plastic cups of 3 ounce to 9 ounce work well), three straws, an ice cube tray or muffin tin, food coloring (any color), Q-tips (a few), dish soap in a small container/cup, isopropyl alcohol in a small container/cup (optional) and pencil and paper for making a chart.



American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Presentation with Alice in Dairyland!

Wednesday, June 23, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM via ZOOM

Presenters: Rich Henningfeld, Julia Recko, Beth Schaefer and Alice in Dairyland Julia Nunes

Register now at **FILL OUT FORM**

A ZOOM meeting link will be emailed to all registered participants the day before the training.

Rick Henningfeld brings a strong background in science and agriculture and over 20 years of learning design, facilitation, training, and speaking experience to the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture as the Education Director. Rick spent 10 years as a high school Agricultural and Science educator and his teaching department developed a mission for their students: Production Agriculture Practices + Scientific Principles & Methodology = Students Prepared for Future Careers in Agricultural Industries. In his role as Education Director, Rick focuses on creating resources and experiences that help build awareness, understanding and positive perception of agriculture through education. Join Rick to explore resources available through the [Purple Plow STEM Challenge](#) and [My American Farm](#) platform!

Julia Recko, Education Outreach Director, has been with American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture for over 12 years. She works most closely with their publishing program Feeding Minds Press. Julia has a Master's Degree in Secondary Education. Julia will be covering what makes a good accurate ag book and what's new with Feeding Minds Press.

Beth Schaefer works to connect local dairy promotion volunteers with resources and funding that is available through the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, the dairy check-off for Wisconsin. She will be sharing the latest dairy education resources and programs from the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin that will help your students connect delicious dairy from the family-farm to the dinner table. New program updates will include a new virtual farm tour and the extremely popular new program, Adopt-a-Calf.

Julia Nunes, aka Alice in Dairyland, will be sharing the virtual farm tour that we partnered with her and her family on as well as the opportunities to invite Alice to schools/classrooms.



Journey 2050

Tuesday, August 17, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM via ZOOM

Presenter: Tessa Matuszak

Register at **FILL OUT FORM**

A ZOOM meeting link will be emailed to all registered participants the day before the training.

Tessa Matuszak is the Program Manager for National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization. As Program Manager for NAITCO, she assists with the expansion of the Journey 2050 and Farmers 2050 educational platforms developed by Nutrien in the U.S. To reach her with questions about Journey 2050 or Farmers 2050, email programs@naitco.org

Journey 2050: Engaging Students in World Food Sustainability- This free, cross-curricular program engages students in discussions about sustainably feeding the world. Functional in a virtual or in-person setting, the seven-level game and program meets educational standards for science, geography, social studies, STEM, career and technical education and agriculture classes. Lesson topics include sustainability, soil, water, economy, geography, culture, careers, agriculture technology and project-based learning. It is geared to grades 7-12, is free of charge and is compatible on all devices.



Back to School Kick-Off at Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center

Wednesday, August 18, 9:30 AM Registration. Training from 10 am – 12 noon

Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center, 7001 Gass Lake Road, Manitowoc

Presenters: Abigail Martin and Darlene Arneson

Register at **FILL OUT FORM**

Register by August 10. Meeting details will be emailed out the Friday before the training.

Let's kick-off the school year with an Ag in the Classroom informational meeting at Farm Wisconsin! Begin and end the day (based on your arrival and departure time) viewing the exhibits at the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center. The center is open from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. The Ag in the Classroom program will run from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon in a separate area. We will cover the 2021-22 school year calendar, introduce the new Book of the Year and Essay Contest, grants, highlight new resources, tour the websites, and discuss your needs for the school year. Afterwards, you can tour the FWDC and hopefully farm tours have resumed by that time. Registration is limited to 40 people. No charge for attending. We welcome Ag in the Classroom volunteers, Promotion & Education members, YFA's, classroom teachers, home school parents, 4-H and extension staff and volunteers and others involved in agricultural literacy to participate. Visit <https://farmwisconsin.org/> to learn more about the center.



Back to School Kick-Off

Tuesday, August 24, 3:00 PM Registration

Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire

Presenters: Darlene Arneson and Museum Education Directors Karen Jacobson

Register at **FILL OUT FORM**

Register by August 16. Meeting details will be emailed out the Thursday before the training.

Darlene will cover the 2021-22 school year calendar, introduce the new Book of the Year and Essay Contest, grants, highlight new resources, tour the websites, and discuss your needs for the school year.

Karen was an elementary school teacher in Chippewa Falls for six years prior to filling the Museum Educator position in 2003. She jokes that her classroom has changed sizes from an average of 20 students to now over 4,000! Karen relies upon the talents of many volunteer docents and other museum ambassadors to provide a wide variety of learning experiences for visitors, ages PreK-adult.

Karen will be sharing a wide range of ag-related, educational resources and materials with audience members. These will include both virtual and in-person possibilities, a traveling exhibition, themed history kits, books, and more. Ask her about field trips and group tours, too, as she arranges bookings for both CVM and their neighboring museum, the Wisconsin Logging Museum, right next door!

Plainfield Student Wins Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Elli Rettler, a fourth-grade student from Plainfield, is the state winner of the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. Wisconsin fourth- and fifth-grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?'

Elli is the daughter of Jessica and Matt Rettler. Her teacher is Christina Schmick at Tri-County Elementary School in Waushara County.

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest focusing on food and agriculture. This contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students across the state.

A total of 1,461 students wrote essays for the essay contest, which is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Association, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, and We Energies.

The nine district winners received a prize package including a plaque, books about soybeans, Culver’s gift card, Agriculture Fast Match game, Trivia cards, and “I Love Soybean” mugs. The state winner also received a plaque and gift. The finalists were:

- District 1 – Grace Hying, fifth grade, North Cape School in Franksville
- District 2 – Bentley Johnson, fourth grade, Roosevelt Elementary School in Janesville
- District 3 – Grace Varo, fifth grade, Seneca Elementary School in Seneca
- District 4 – Devin Herricks, fourth grade, Cashton Elementary in Cashton
- District 5 – Elli Rettler, fourth grade, Tri-County Elementary in Plainfield
- District 6 – Madalyn Novak, fourth grade, Divine Savior Catholic School in Kiel
- District 7 – Lauryn Peters, fifth grade, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy in Peshtigo
- District 8 – Shelby Yates, fifth grade, Washington Elementary School in Merrill
- District 9 – Gracie Benson, fifth grade, Ladysmith Elementary School in Ladysmith

Elli’s winning essay:

Sassy Soybean Fuels Wisconsin’s Economy and Beyond

Hi! I’m Miss Sassy Soybean Seed. I am a single bean among approximately 100 million bushels of soybeans harvested in Wisconsin each year!

Like many of my relatives and friends, I know my potential!! We soybeans (and our ancestors) start out with stored energy in our protective seed coat, and in a large bag. From there, some awesome farmer buys us, plants us, harvests us, and sells us. With just that much, we’ve already fueled Wisconsin’s economy.

Just think about the people we keep busy! There’s the soybean seed sales person, the office workers who keeps orders straight, orders more seed, and keeps track of the bills and payment, the warehouse people who unload and load the seed, the trucker who delivers the seed, the fuelman and mechanic who keeps trucks running, and the farmer. All these people earn money and spend money! That’s fueling Wisconsin!

Our jobs as seeds have only started, and whether we stay in Wisconsin or move across the ocean, we’re in high demand. Some of us are used in making ink, crayons, oil, tofu, biodiesel fuel, animal food, milk, tires, and many other products. Can you imagine all of the jobs that are part of making, selling, and using these products? One use that surprised me is that more than 90 percent of America’s daily newspapers use soy ink. Now, that’s a lot of reading!

Henry Ford certainly was not “full of beans” in his thinking and inventing. Almost a century ago, he knew we soybeans were special and he proved it. Researchers are still proving we have even more potential. I’m very proud of what we soybeans do. I love helping Wisconsinites and people around the world, sassy or not!

2021 County Essay Contest Winners as reported to Wis AITC

County	Student	School	Entries	Town
Adams	no entries		0	
Barron	no entries		0	
Brown	Anna R	Heritage Elementary	2	De Pere

Buffalo	Ayva T	Pepin Area Schools	55	Pepin
Burnett	no entries		0	
Calumet	Angie P	Trinity Lutheran	34	Hilbert
Chippewa	Ivy P	New Auburn Elementary	14	New Auburn
Clark	no entries		0	
Columbia	Jack M	Rio Elementary	25	Rio
Crawford	Grace V	Seneca Schools	30	Seneca
Dane	Emma E	Home schooled	1	Sun Prairie
Dodge	Addison S	Webster Elementary	5	Watertown
Door	no entries		0	
Dunn	Amber K	Elk Mound Middle School	67	Elk Mound
Eau Claire	Azura W	Augusta Elementary	7	Augusta
Florence	no entries		0	
Fond du Lac	Alexander S	Saint Mary's Springs Academy	32	Fond du Lac
Forest	no entries		0	
Grant	no entries		0	
Green	Jacob D	Monticello Elementary	56	Monticello
Green Lake	Leah R	Princeton Public Schools	33	Princeton
Iowa	Jaelyn P	Iowa Grant Schools	1	Iowa Grant
Jackson	no entries		0	
Jefferson	Brooklyn H	Johnson Creek Elem	40	Johnson Creek
Juneau	Bristol D	New Lisbon Elementary	150	New Lisbon
Kenosha	no entries		0	
Kewaunee	Blake N	Holy Trinity	2	Casco
La Crosse	no entries		0	
Lafayette	no entries		0	
Langlade	no entries		0	
Lincoln	Shelby Y	Washington Elementary	35	Merrill
Manitowoc	Madalyn N	Divine Savior Catholic School	6	Kiel
Marathon	no entries		0	
Marinette	Lauryn P	St. Thomas Aquinas	10	Peshtigo
Marquette	Owen	Neenah Creek Elementary	30	Briggsville
Menominee	no entries		0	
Milwaukee	no entries		0	
Monroe	Devin H	Cashton Elementary	18	Cashton
Oconto	no entries		0	
Oneida	no entries		0	
Outagamie	no entries		0	
Ozaukee	Ryan R	Trinity Lutheran	10	Mequon
Pepin	no entries		0	
Pierce	Jennifer S	Spring Valley Elementary	108	Spring Valley
Polk	no entries		0	

Portage	no entries		0	
Price	Kaylee E	Phillips Elementary	90	Phillips
Racine	Grace H.	North Cape	41	Franksville
Richland	no entries		0	
Rock	Bentley J	Roosevelt Elementary	24	Janesville
Rusk	Gracie B	Ladysmith School District	47	Ladysmith
Sauk	Hal L	Prairie Ridge Intermediate	20	Reedsburg
Sawyer	no entries		0	
Shawano	Amelia D	St. James Lutheran	21	Shawano
Sheboygan	Lucas P	Random Lake Middle School	94	Random Lake
St. Croix	no entries		0	
Superior Shores	no entries		0	
Taylor	Maya W	Multum Non-Mutual Academy	1	Gilman
Trempealeau	no entries		0	
Vernon	no entries		0	
Vilas	no entries		0	
Walworth	no entries		0	
Washburn	no entries		0	
Washington	Evan F	St. Frances Cabrini	44	West Bend
Waukesha	Kaylei S	St. Joseph Parish	4	Big Bend
Waupaca	Cheyenne S	New London Middle School	96	New London
Waushara	Elli R	Tri-County Elementary	9	Plainfield
Winnebago	Olivia T	Omro Elementary	148	Omro
Wood	Bentley T	Port Edwards Elementary	51	Port Edwards

Total 1461

For more essay contest information: <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/>

Changes in your county AITC or Soybean Science Kits?

As we wind up the school year, please let Darlene Arneson (darneson@wfbf.com) know if you are changing county AITC coordinators, committees, Soybean Science Kit coordinators, have moved, changed phone numbers or have email changes. Email your name, email and what county you live/teach in and then I can update it. The County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator and Committee lists are part of the WFBF system so those changes should also go to Darci Meili at dmeili@wfbf.com – preferably through your district coordinator.

If you have reports due: Soybean Science Kit or Matching Grants (awarded in Spring 2020), reports, they are all due in the next few weeks!

If you have a soybean science kit and are leaving your position, please contact me with the name, address, phone and email of who will be taking over the kit. Also please take a few minutes to discuss and transition the kits with the new staff member so they know they have one! This has been a challenge!



In-person or Virtual National Conference Options

Find your “Field of Dreams” at the National Ag in the Classroom Conference!

<https://www.agclassroom.org/conference/>

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.

There are limited spots left for the in-person conference and registrations are \$485 per person. 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.

For more information, please view the video at <https://youtu.be/yFrH6zJP58M>



If you want to learn about agriculture hands-on, visit the 2021 Farm Technology Days in Eau Claire! <https://www.wifarmtechdays.org/>

So much to learn at all the different tents, demonstrations, speakers, vendors and Youth/Education Tent. Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom has a booth in the Youth/Education Tent along with other youth focused exhibitors. FTD is a great way to see the diversity of agriculture, learn about natural resources, and get a feel for new things happening in agriculture. Great for teachers of all grade levels and subjects! The dates are July 20-22 at Huntsinger Farms, W3020 Mitchell Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701. This is the largest agricultural show in Wisconsin showcasing the latest improvements and innovations in production agriculture.

Huntsinger Farms and its subsidiary, Silver Spring Foods, Inc. was founded in 1929 by Ellis Huntsinger who is nationally recognized as a pioneer in horseradish farming. Still family-owned by Huntsinger's granddaughter, Nancy Bartusch and two great-grandsons, Eric and Ryan rygg, Huntsinger Farms is now the world's largest grower and processor of horseradish. Huntsinger Farms uses a five to seven year crop rotation of 1400 acres of corn, 2100 acres of soybeans, and 310 acres of snap beans to support production of 700 acres of horseradish. They are vertically integrated with Silver Spring Foods, Inc. and grown and harvest over 9 million pounds of horseradish per year. Crews harvest horseradish in the spring and fall after plants have been in the ground about 12-24 months.

Learn more about their operation at <https://www.silverspringfoods.com/> and <https://www.huntsingerfarms.com/>

County AITC Coordinators- don't forget to do your county report by July 1.

Please see the resources at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/about-aitc/resources-for-county-coordinators/> or go to the google report at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGilQZqrVtH71jpCO0072u07o2ftMTwGyBY7vYmvT1Whk8uw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>



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
www.wisagclassroom.org