



**August 2021**  
**Ag in the Classroom Newsletter for**  
**our Ag in the Classroom Teachers**  
**and Home School Parents!**

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**Free August 2021 Learning Opportunities- Register ASAP for them!!**

**Journey 2050 Virtual Workshop**

Tuesday, August 17, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. via Zoom

Presenter: Tessa Matuszak

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.

Register at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdkOJsgHRxZu\\_tjZH0Z1C1mZKI5oDFa9DdrU2JlcoSdhYa64w/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdkOJsgHRxZu_tjZH0Z1C1mZKI5oDFa9DdrU2JlcoSdhYa64w/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)

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, Aug. 18, 9:30 a.m. Registration. Training from 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center, 7001 Gass Lake Road, Manitowoc

Presenters: Abigail Martin and Darlene Arneson

Register by Aug. 13. Meeting details will be emailed out the Monday before the training.

Register at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdZJlhpLBrb7coX6XhhfrldJDmHpR5iXhY4uGhehzUGKmSPw/alreadyresponded?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

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 a.m.– 5 p.m. The Ag in the Classroom program will run from 10 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 and Education members, YFAs,

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 at Chippewa Valley Museum**

Tuesday, Aug. 24, 3 p.m. Registration

Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire

Presenters: Darlene Arneson and Museum Education Directors Karen Jacobson

Register by Aug.16. Meeting details will be emailed out the Thursday before the training. Register at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3sPTnMMpBhV66nfi\\_JIX5AwB\\_quK0vpl5ZWqeTcKZ3XNeEQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3sPTnMMpBhV66nfi_JIX5AwB_quK0vpl5ZWqeTcKZ3XNeEQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)

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. Karen was an elementary school teacher in Chippewa Falls for six years prior to filling the Museum Educator position in 2003. 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! The museum is open that night until 8 p.m.

### **Congratulations to Dyan Lasar- AFBFA Grant Recipient**

Congratulations to Dyan Lasar, Greenfield High School, who received a Christina Sue Lilja Resource Grants (formerly known as White-Reinhardt Resource Grants) are made possible by the CSL Foundation. The grants were coordinated by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

The CSL Foundation was established to carry on late AFBFA director Christy Lilja's beliefs of helping others in need and to continue to advocate for educating K-12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture.

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.

To learn more about the grant, visit <https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/CSL-resource-grants>

## **From our friends at Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin!**



Looking for a unique way to bring agriculture to life for your students? The **Discover Dairy Adopt a Cow Program**, sponsored locally by Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, offers an exciting, year-long experience for your classroom, ideal for both virtual and in-person instruction! Throughout the program, you and your students will get an inside look at dairy farming and be paired with a calf from a WISCONSIN dairy farm. You'll find out what her name is, when her birthday is, where she lives, and how the farmer takes care of her. You'll also receive progress updates from the dairy farmer, photos of your calf, live chats from the farm, student lessons and activity sheets, and even opportunities to write letters to your calf!

This program is **completely complimentary** and follows some of the Common CORE standards. Last school year, more than 1,600 classrooms and 28,000 Wisconsin students participated in this fun and educational program. **Learn more and register for this school year between Aug. 1 and Sept. 15** at [www.discoverdairy.com/adopt](http://www.discoverdairy.com/adopt)

Please share this information with other educators you know. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Doster [kdoster@WisconsinDairy.org](mailto:kdoster@WisconsinDairy.org) at Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin.

### **Applicants Sought for Outstanding Teacher Award**

Please consider filling out an application for Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program's Outstanding Teacher Award. Certified teachers currently integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula in the pre-K through high school levels are eligible to apply. Applications may be from an individual teacher or a teaching team. Previous state winners and certified agricultural education instructors are not eligible.

Teachers must use agricultural information or materials within the classroom curriculum to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Learning activities may include, but are not limited to, understanding agriculture's impact on personal lives, our national heritage, the environment or the economy. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

The state winner(s) will receive a plaque and \$500 to be used for educational resources or towards attending the 2022 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. The winner(s) will also represent Wisconsin as the state's nominee for the Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award Program presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ag in the Classroom program.

For application information, visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/grants-awards/outstanding-teacher-award/>. The application must be postmarked by Oct. 15.

## **Teacher Mini-Grants Available for Ag Literacy Projects**

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program is offering mini-grants of up to \$100 to fund projects that promote agricultural literacy. Grants can be used for innovative lessons, activities, resources, presentations, school fairs and other creative ideas.

The proposed project must be targeted to grades pre-K through 12 and should enhance student knowledge of the importance of agriculture. Preference will be given to projects that use funds toward ongoing, sustainable education efforts; events designed to engage large groups of students; or those that involve innovative approaches to promoting agricultural literacy.

Applications are evaluated on quality and uniqueness of the project, integration of agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas, alignment with educational standards, assessment methods used to evaluate students' knowledge and quality of the submission.

A selection committee will review funding requests that are postmarked by Oct. 15. Applications can be downloaded from <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/grants-awards/grants/mini-grants/>

## **Watch for the August Announcement!**

The 2021-2022 Book of the Year and 4-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay topic announcement will be made the at Back to School Kick-Offs in August.

A group including elementary teachers, a student, home school parent, and county AITC volunteers met earlier this summer to review prospective books for the 2021-2022 Book of the Year. They look at content, photos and illustrations, possible lesson plans and activities, and how the topic lends itself to the essay contest. The book was selected and during the summer, the essay contest topic will be determined, lesson plans and activities compiled and developed, and final plans made for the school year.

Watch for the announcements on Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's Facebook page, press release, and information will be posted at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/>

## **American Farm Bureau Scholarships for National Ag in the Classroom Conference Available**

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is offering White-Reinhardt Scholarship opportunities to the 2022 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in New York for full time educators and/or volunteers that actively participate in classroom ag literacy programs or events are now available. This scholarship program is to provide travel expense funds to attend the national conference and then use the information gained to expand their outreach to students regarding food, fiber and fuel. The conference draws more than 400 teachers, volunteers and people involved in agricultural literacy and offers workshops, tours, speakers, and hands-on learning opportunities. The White-Reinhardt Fund for Education is a special project of the Foundation in cooperation with the AFB Women's Leadership Committee. It was established to honor two former chairs of that committee, Berta White and Linda Reinhardt, who were leaders in the national effort to improve agricultural literacy.

Online applications must be submitted by Oct. 15. More information and the registration link can be found at <https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/ag-scholarships>



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