



## 2021-2022 Essay Contest for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Presented by Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom

What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!

This year's essay contest topic is ***What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!*** Our 2022 Book of the Year is ***Popcorn Country*** by Cris Peterson. The book and essay topic allow students to explore the importance of the corn industry to Wisconsin's economy- whether it is field corn, sweet corn, popcorn, or the other types grown. Students might also focus on the role of corn has in many of the snacks that we enjoy. 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 <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/> . Books must be ordered online through the website store.

### **Contest Rules:**

- The essay contest is open to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Entries can be sent in individually or through their school.
- 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, grammar, spelling, originality, creativity. Students must include at least three references (i.e., statistics, examples, facts, history) to Wisconsin in the essay. Please use the suggested grading rubric as a guide to the students, teachers and those judging the essays.
- Essays must include the 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, 2022**, and sent to the county essay coordinator:

**County Farm Bureau Essay Contest  
Coordinator:**

### **Contest Prizes:**

- Nine district winners will be chosen. District and state winners will be announced in May 2022.
- Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May 2022 for their class, homeroom or home school group.
- A state winner will be chosen and will receive a special award.

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*The Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest is sponsored by We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Wisconsin Corn, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Word count \_\_\_\_\_

You can use the 2022 Book of the Year "**Popcorn Country**" for ideas and perspectives you could cover. But that is not a requirement! They should reference Wisconsin in at least three places.

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 is popcorn grown and harvested? How does it pop?
- The importance of the corn industry to Wisconsin's economy. This might be popcorn, field corn or other types.
- The various steps of planting, growing, harvesting, processing, marketing and other aspects of any type of corn.
- What snacks have ingredients tied to Wisconsin agriculture? Exploring the various products made from crops- especially corn.

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

### On the Web

National Ag in the Classroom matrix- Get Popping! <https://www.agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/642/>; Corn an A-maizing Plant: Food, Fuel, and Plastic- <https://www.agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/141/>; Inherited Traits in the Living Corn Necklace- <https://www.agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/219/> There are more related lessons!

National Ag in the Classroom's store- <https://www.agclassroom.org/matrix/resource/878/>

American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture- <https://www.agfoundation.org/>

- At Home Learning Week 12- <https://www.agfoundation.org/news/at-home-learning-oct-12>
- Snacks Ag Mag- <https://www.agfoundation.org/ag-lit-catalog/view/snacks-ag-mag>
- Corn Ag Mag- <https://www.agfoundation.org/ag-lit-catalog/view/corn-ag-mag>
- My American Farm- <http://www.myamericanfarm.org/games/themes/corn>

The Popcorn Board- Links to learn about popcorn- <https://www.popcorn.org/>

- Videos- <https://www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/Videos>
- Science Fairs, Teaching Tools and more- <https://www.popcorn.org/Learning/Ask-Poppy>
- Kids Corner- Facts, recipes, activity sheets- <https://www.popcorn.org/Kids-Corner/Power-Pops>
- History, production, types of corn, and more- <https://www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/Our-Story>

Wisconsin Corn- <https://wicorn.org/>

### How to help students determine what to write:

- Discuss how corn impacts our economy 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!
- **This year we have added an additional requirement asking the students to reference Wisconsin at least three times and there is a suggested grading rubric to follow!**

**Questions?** Contact Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom at 608-828-5644, email [darneson@wbf.com](mailto:darneson@wbf.com) or look for us on the web at [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org).

## Essay Contest Suggested Grading Rubric for the 2021-22 Contest

Essay Requirements:	3- YES		NO
Essay is handwritten in INK or computer generated.	YES		NO Essay is written in pencil or not typed.
Essay is single sided and fit on one sheet of paper.	YES		NO Essay is on more than one paper.
Essay MUST be between 100-300 words in length.	YES _____ words		NO Essay is incomplete.
Essay Criteria:	3- Proficient (50)	2- Almost There (25)	1- Incomplete (0)
<b>Content of Essay</b>	Essay includes 3+ references to Wisconsin.	Essay only includes 2 references to Wisconsin.	No references made to Wisconsin.
	Includes statistics, examples, facts, and/or history to enhance the essay.	Limited use of statistics, examples, facts, and/or history addressed in the essay.	Lacked use of resources to write the essay.
Comments:			
Essay Mechanics/Originality & Creativity:	3- Proficient (25)	2- Almost There (25)	1- Incomplete (0)
<b>Grammar and Spelling</b>	There were <b>no</b> spelling or grammar errors.	There were <b>some</b> spelling and grammar errors.	There were <b>too many</b> spelling and grammar errors.
	Essay was easy to read and follow.	Essay was hard to read and follow.	Essay was not able to be read.
<b>Originality and Creativity</b>	Essay was interesting and enjoyable to read.	Essay was enjoyable to read.	Essay lacked in interest in reading.
	Author displayed knowledge of content and wrote their essay using personal connections, humor, and creativity in their writing.	Author stated general information about the topic.	
Comments:			

Score: \_\_\_\_\_/18 points

## **2021-2022 Essay Contest Deadlines**

These are **postmarked by dates!**

**April 1-** Essays due to county Farm Bureau essay coordinators- find your county essay coordinator at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/>

**April 15-** County Winners due to District Promotion and Education Chair with a report on how many essays you received!

**April 26-** District Winners due to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom from the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

**May 3-** State Winner Selection Packet (copies of the nine district winners and ballot) sent to WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

**May 10-** Ballots must be returned to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom

**May to end of school year-** District and State Winner Presentations – likely virtual or via mail



### **Thank you to our 2021-2022 Essay Contest Sponsors!**

**We Energies**  
[www.weenergies.com](http://www.weenergies.com)

**Jason Kollwelter, We Energies, 1300 Janesville Avenue, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538**

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**Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board**  
<https://badgerbean.com/>                      <https://wisoybean.org/>

**Robert Karls, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, 4414 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53705**

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**Wisconsin Corn**  
<https://wicorn.org/>

**Nicole L. Wagner, Executive Director, Wisconsin Corn, N77 W24707 Century Ct.  
Lisbon, WI 53089**

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**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation**  
<https://wfbf.com/foundation/>

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