



September 2021
Ag in the Classroom Newsletter for
our Ag in the Classroom Volunteers!

Applicants Sought for Outstanding Teacher Award

Please share the 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.

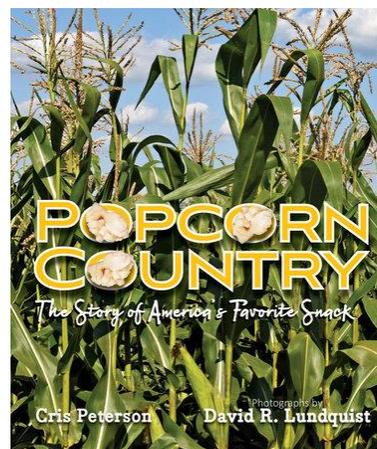
Promote the Teacher Mini-Grants Available for Ag Literacy Projects

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/>



Book of the Year and Essay Contest Information!

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is kicking off the 2021-2022 school year by announcing the Book of the Year, "Popcorn Country" written by Cris Peterson.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the Book of the Year for fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout the state. This year's essay contest topic is, *'What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!'*

Author Cris Peterson offers a step-by-step examination of the history and science behind America's favorite snack. With photographs by David R. Lundquist, readers get a view of how popcorn is planted, grown, harvested, processed, tested and finally shipped all over the world. Back matter delves into the history of popcorn and how it became so popular in the United States. Accompanying lessons from the National Ag in the Classroom and the Popcorn Board are aligned to educational standards and are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

"We are so excited to have another of Cris' books with her gifted writing and excellent photographs," said Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson. "The book does an excellent job explaining how popcorn is grown and processed into one of America's favorite snacks. The essay contest focuses on the many uses of the various types of corn, but especially popcorn, in the snacks we eat along with their importance to Wisconsin's economy."

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. This year students must make three references to Wisconsin agriculture. The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Essays are due April 1, 2022.

The contest is sponsored by We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Wisconsin Corn and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for his or her class. Last year, over 1,400 students participated in the contest. Questions about the book or essay contest can be directed to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at darneson@wbf.com.

Want to go to Saratoga Springs, NY next summer?

Applications for White-Reinhardt Scholarships to the 2022 National Ag in the Classroom Conference for full time educators and/or volunteers that actively participate in classroom ag literacy programs or events are now being accepted. 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 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.

Learn more at <https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/ag-scholarships>



County Farm Bureaus can fill out AFBFA Grant Scholarships!

The White-Reinhardt Grant Program funds projects that will increase agricultural literacy. County and state Farm Bureaus may apply for **\$1,000 grants** for education programs for grades K-12 in order to initiate new ag literacy programs or expand existing programs. Organizations and individual schools can work with their local Farm Bureaus to apply. Grants are available on a competitive basis.

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.

The Spring 2022 application cycle is open!

<https://www.agfoundation.org/projects/wr-grants-home>

Note: There is another grant cycle in April in case you need more time!

The Great Apple Crunch

🍏 Get Ready To Crunch!

Looking for a fun way to support farm to school, Wisconsin farmers, and resilient communities? Register for the eighth annual Great Apple Crunch this October! Crunch into local apples at noon on Thursday, October 14th at schools, early care sites, colleges and hospitals across Wisconsin (and the region) to celebrate Farm to School Month and local food in cafeterias. **This year everyone is invited to Crunch!**

It's simple and easy to participate. Register at www.cias.wisc.edu/applecrunch, purchase local apples, and Crunch in October. You even get FREE Crunch stickers! After you register you will receive the Crunch Guide with tools to find local apples, tasty apple recipes, and social media tips. For teachers, the Crunch Guide also includes student lesson plans listed by age group.

Share your Apple Crunch with us! Take a photo or video and share to [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) with the hashtags #GreatAppleCrunch, #WIAppleCrunch, #F2SMonth, and #OneMillionCrunches!

Check out these new Crunch training videos!

- For **early care sites**: <https://go.wisc.edu/42v826>
- For **apple growers**: <https://go.wisc.edu/65fxue>
- **Celebrate #F2S Month** with everyone! : <https://go.wisc.edu/v80k09>

To register and for more information, visit www.cias.wisc.edu/applecrunch or contact Brianna Fiene at bfiene2@wisc.edu or (608) 235-5813.



Farm Tech Days 2021 Eau Claire Launches Agriculture Website & K-12 Curriculum

The Executive Committee of Farm Technology Days 2021 Eau Claire today launched its new website <https://chippewavalleyfarming.com>, an entertaining educational website about the wide range of farming in Chippewa Valley for the students K-12 and teachers of Wisconsin.

Featuring the six farms of Innovation Square and the Farm Tours of Farm Tech Days 2021, the new website features professional videos, background and information of the farms and their crops and/or herds, a wide range of recipes using the foods from these farms, fun puzzles and games that entertain and teach, and a professionally developed agriculture curriculum for students K-12.

Curriculum

The professional curriculum was developed for students K-12; each farm has an associated curriculum that uses the videos, background information, and photos on the website to show the different farms, how they farm and process their crops and herds, and the wide-variety of skills and jobs required to make a modern farm successful.

Importantly, the curriculum is available online for downloads that can be edited by each instructor and teacher to meet their specific lesson plan needs.

“Wisconsin Ag teachers are a special resource for each school in the state, focused on educating students of all ages about the wide and varied agriculture pathways in Wisconsin,” added Adam Wehling, Chair of the Youth and Discovery Zone for Farm Tech Days 2021, and Dean Agriculture/Energy/Construction/Transportation at Chippewa Valley Technical College. “We made sure to create a turn-key resource and an editable one that teachers across the state can adapt to their own lesson plans, regions, and schedules.”

The featured farms are:

- **Chippewa Valley Bean** – the largest processor of red kidney beans in the world
- **Ferguson’s Orchards** – the largest apple producer between the Rocky Mountains and Lake Michigan
- **Marieke Gouda/Penterman Farm** – an award-winning homestead Gouda cheese maker that is well on its way to using 100% of the milk from its 400-head Penterman Dairy for its Gouda
- **Nellie’s Holsteins** – a 4th and 5th generation dairy farm that has recently been modernized to provide a successful dairy for the future
- **Silver Spring Foods/Huntsinger Farms** – the largest grower and processor of horseradish in the world
- **Superior Fresh** – the largest Aquaponic/Hydroponic operation in the world producing organic leafy greens and Atlantic Salmon all year round in Wisconsin

Recipes Developed By CVTC Culinary Students

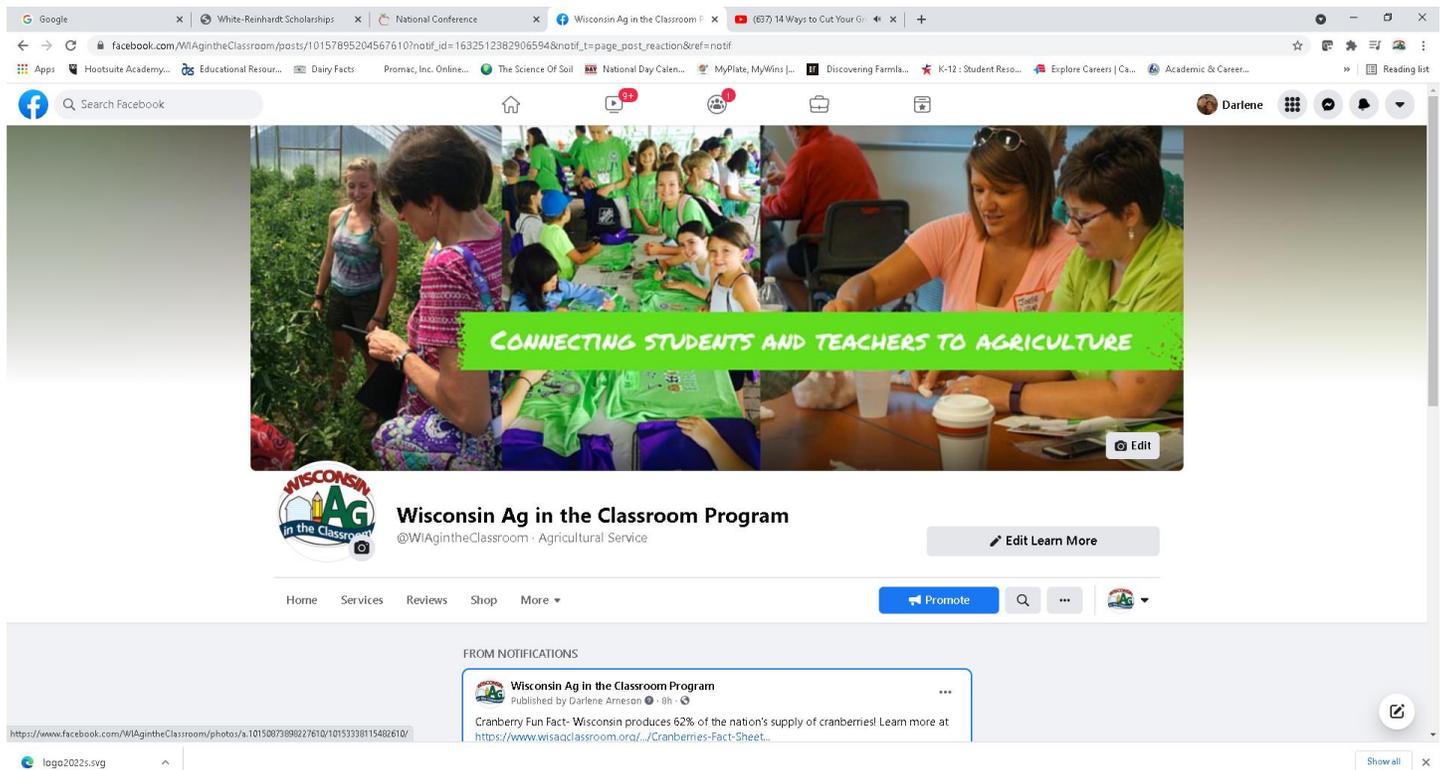
In addition, the website’s recipe section has all the recipes for five three-course meals that were developed by students in Chippewa Valley Technical College’s Culinary Program. Using a market basket with foods from each of the farms – apples, leafy organic greens, Atlantic Salmon, mustard, horseradish, red kidney beans, and Gouda cheese -- five teams of two students each created delicious meals that showcased their passion and skill. CVTC Culinary Program worked closely with Farm Tech Days to create a valuable project for the students that showcases the great education their students get to prepare them for real-world jobs in the culinary/hospitality industry.

About Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is a three-day outdoor event showcasing the latest developments in production agriculture, including practical applications and recent research and technological developments. This is the only farm show of its size in the United States that is organized and run entirely by volunteers. As the largest outdoor agricultural event in the state, it welcomes more than 45,000 attendees, with more than 450 commercial and educational vendors.

Farm Tech Days 2021 Eau Claire was originally planned for 2020 but was delayed to 2021 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Hosted by Huntsinger Farms in Eau Claire. Over 52,000 people attended the show over the three-day show, July 20-22. The first WFTD show was named Farm Progress Days and was held in Waupaca County in 1954. Clark County and has been chosen as the host for the 67th annual event in 2022.

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Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program
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FROM NOTIFICATIONS

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program
Published by Darlene Arneson · 8h · 0

Cranberry Fun Fact - Wisconsin produces 62% of the nation's supply of cranberries! Learn more at https://www.wisagclassroom.org/_/Cranberries-Fact-Sheet...

Cranberry STEAM Learning Project Lesson Plans

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/lessons-resources/classroom-lessons/cranberry-steam-learning-project/>

The Cranberry STEAM Learning Project is a newly formed Steering Committee representing Wisconsin's cranberry industry and youth education. Using a grant awarded from the proceeds from the 2018 Wood County Farm Technology Days, numerous educational kits have been assembled to teach traditional and non-traditional students about Wisconsin's state fruit, the Cranberry.

Lessons have been developed to engage students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). In addition to original lessons, our Cranberry STEAM lesson plans have been derived from existing plans that have been altered and enhanced to include Ag-literacy components. With these resources' volunteers, teachers, and other agricultural advocates will help our youth better connect where food comes from, teach them about healthy eating and provide fun educational experiences.

Our goal is to educate, promote and stimulate interest in agriculture, focusing on cranberry production. We've constructed tangible classroom learning tools for cranberry agricultural education and STEAM-based demonstrations to accompany the lesson plans. The goal is to merge cranberry agricultural education with STEAM concepts for agriculture learning initiatives/Ag-literacy.

The Cranberry STEAM Classroom Demonstration Kit Grant was written by the Cranberry STEAM Education Steering Committee, Co-Chairs Heidi Slinkman (Gaynor Cranberry Co. & Chair of the Wood

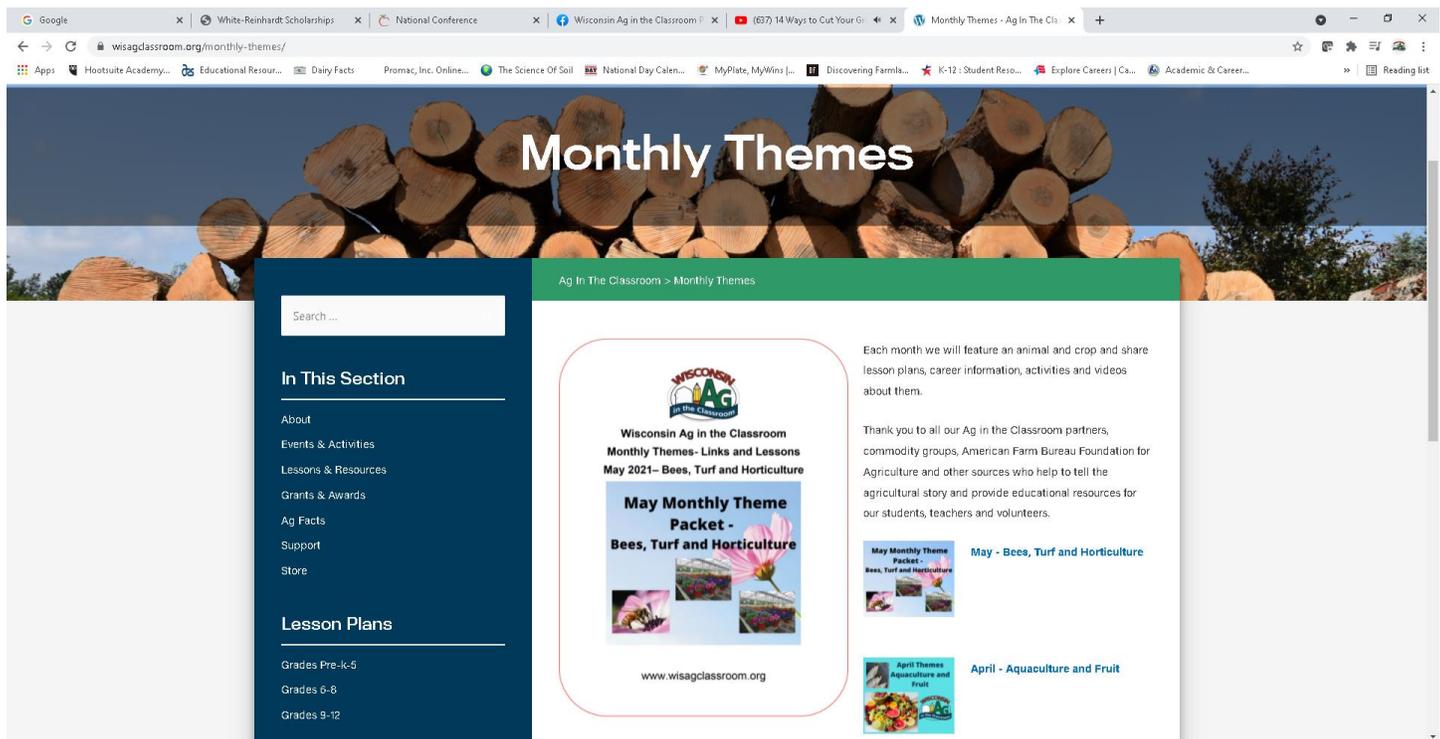
County FTD Cranberry Exhibit 2018) & Pamela Verhulst (Cranberry Industry Consultant & FTD Cran-Expo Volunteer).

The Cranberry STEAM Steering Committee evolved from the 2018 Wood County Farm Technology Days - Cranberry Expo. During Farm Technology Days, we witnessed the power of hands-on learning from our cranberry bog displays and education tents. We recognized the value of connecting our community to cranberry farming and saw the need to enhance cranberry agricultural education materials for the classroom.

[facebook.com/CranberrySTEAMLearningProject](https://www.facebook.com/CranberrySTEAMLearningProject)

Looking for what's available for crops and animals? Check out our Monthly Theme Packets!

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



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Monthly Themes' page on the 'Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom' website. The page has a dark blue header with the text 'Monthly Themes' overlaid on a background image of stacked logs. Below the header is a search bar and a navigation menu. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a search bar and a list of links under the heading 'In This Section', including 'About', 'Events & Activities', 'Lessons & Resources', 'Grants & Awards', 'Ag Facts', 'Support', and 'Store'. Below this is a 'Lesson Plans' section with links for 'Grades Pre-K-5', 'Grades 6-8', and 'Grades 9-12'. The right column features a large featured box for the 'May Monthly Theme Packet - Bees, Turf and Horticulture' with a small image of a bee and a flower. To the right of this box is a paragraph of text: 'Each month we will feature an animal and crop and share lesson plans, career information, activities and videos about them.' Below this is another paragraph: 'Thank you to all our Ag in the Classroom partners, commodity groups, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and other sources who help to tell the agricultural story and provide educational resources for our students, teachers and volunteers.' Below the text are two smaller boxes for other monthly themes: 'May - Bees, Turf and Horticulture' and 'April - Aquaculture and Fruit'. The website URL 'www.wisagclassroom.org' is visible at the bottom of the featured box.



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