



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

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## **Join Wisconsin Chili Lunch! Thursday, February 24, 2022**

Celebrate Wisconsin-grown foods and farm to institution efforts by joining the 2022 Wisconsin Chili Lunch. Join K-12 schools, early care and education programs, hospitals, colleges, and more by cooking and serving a chili recipe made with local ingredients on National Chili Day—Thursday, February 24th, 2022!

Participation is simple: Prepare and serve your Wisconsin Chili Lunch using as many locally grown ingredients as possible, and customize it to meet your needs! Add local meats, cheese, or yogurt! Serve it in a bowl, on a baked potato, or with a cinnamon roll! Use a recipe listed below, or cook up your own favorite chili recipe. The key is to source as many Wisconsin-grown products as you can. [Register today](#) to get the Chili Lunch Guide, supply chain help, more recipes and get connected to other farm to institution efforts in the state.

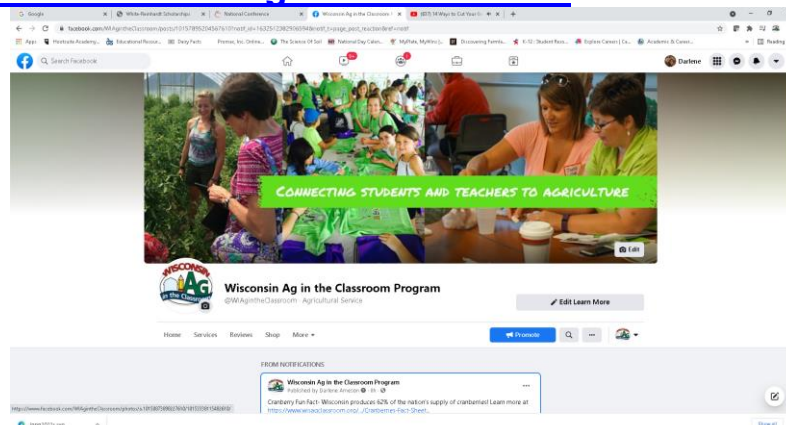
With foodservice operations experiencing so many supply chain disruptions right now, local foods may provide an opportunity to source reliable, high-quality ingredients that also support our local communities. We're here to help you connect with local farmers and vendors.

In 2021 Wisconsin Chili Lunch participants served up 76,050 bowls of local chili at 660 different cafeteria sites across the state! We appreciate foodservice professionals working so hard to keep communities nourished with local foods during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To register and for more information, visit <https://cias.wisc.edu/our-events/chililunch/> or contact Cathryn Herlihey ([cherlihey@wisc.edu](mailto:cherlihey@wisc.edu)) with questions or for guidance

### **Are you following our daily posts?**

**<https://www.facebook.com/WIAgintheClassroom>**



# Wisconsin Farm Bureau- Ag in the Classroom Pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity

## *How can I help reduce food waste?*

To celebrate National Ag Day on March 22, 2022 this activity allows students to share ***How can they help reduce food waste.*** Students can draw pictures, explain, use photos, diagram or report on what they do to reduce food waste, describe a composting project, a school or class project they have been involved with, encourage their family to reduce food waste, or share other things that tell how they are helping to reduce food waste.

Recognition: There are three grade level groups:

- PreK – 3<sup>rd</sup> grades
- 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades

Through a random drawing, ten entries from each grade level group will receive a \$10 Culvers card. All entries will be sent an Ag in the Classroom resource.

Rules:

- Open to Wisconsin students in Pre-K– 12<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2022 or emailed by 11:59 PM that night. Hard copies should be sent to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, PO Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705.
- Nothing identifying the student can be on the front. The form should be attached separately or put on the back of the entry.
- All work must be original, done exclusively by the student, and without any copyrighted characters or clip art. No computer-generated art. Only include photos that have the permission of the student's parent or guardian approving that it can be used for social media, press releases, articles and other uses.

**This should be either typed or printed legibly.**

**Student's name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age** \_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_

**Parent's name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home address (complete with street, city and zip)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

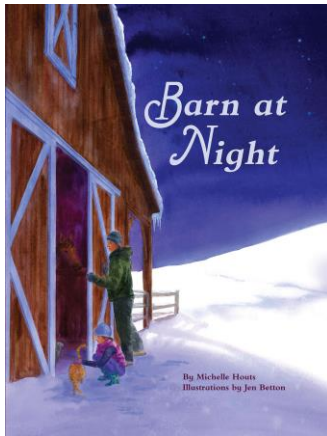
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**By submitting the entry, the applicant and parent/adult guardian give permission to Wisconsin Farm Bureau- Ag in the Classroom to use the entries for publication, social media, sharing images for others to use, and become the property of Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom.**

**Parent signature** \_\_\_\_\_



*How can I help reduce food waste?*



***Barn at Night***- a limited number of books have been ordered and will be sold until December 8 as a fundraiser for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

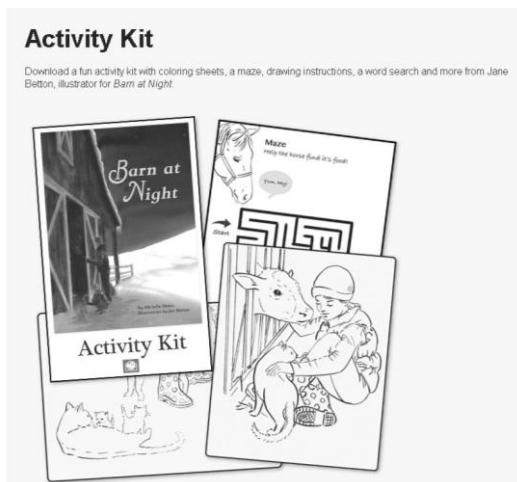
The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, which operates Feeding Minds Press, offered this promotion to state Farm Bureaus to have for their annual meeting. Books can be purchased at the WFBF Annual Meeting or online at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/product-category/books/> until December 8.

The book is geared towards age 4-8 years. The AFBFA also has some education resources on their website that you might want to check out!

Visit the website: <https://www.feedingmindspress.com/our-books/barn-at-night> to...

- Watch the book trailer
- Download the free activity sheets
- Get a free sample lesson from the ed guide
- Read the blog from author Michelle Houts on her inspiration for the book
- Watch Jen Betton show us how the watercolors for the book were created.

The activity kit has coloring sheets, a maze, drawing instructions, a word search and more from illustrator Jane Betton. There also is an Activity/sample lesson in the Educator's Guide.





## 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.

*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-mazing 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 <b>3+</b> references to Wisconsin.  Includes statistics, examples, facts, and/or history to enhance the essay.	Essay only includes <b>2</b> references to Wisconsin.  Limited use of statistics, examples, facts, and/or history addressed in the essay.	No references made to Wisconsin.  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.  Essay was easy to read and follow.	There were <b>some</b> spelling and grammar errors.  Essay was hard to read and follow.	There were <b>too many</b> spelling and grammar errors.  Essay was not able to be read.
<b>Originality and Creativity</b>	Essay was interesting and enjoyable to read.  Author displayed knowledge of content and wrote their essay using personal connections, humor, and creativity in their writing.	Essay was enjoyable to read.  Author stated general information about the topic.	Essay lacked in interest in reading.
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/>

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, PO Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705**



Have you checked out our YouTube Channel and various playlists?



National Ag Day resource videos:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1QIUQk9ABSsxm5Y8hq4Dmd-9>

2021-2022 Essay Contest resource videos:

[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1QIKRzp2Uia9FKE8GSLY\\_8i3](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1QIKRzp2Uia9FKE8GSLY_8i3)

Wisconsin Farm Facts 2021- Honey and Maple Syrup resource videos:

[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1QL55WOPKLDcAVaru\\_8PALN6](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1QL55WOPKLDcAVaru_8PALN6)

Popcorn Country- Book of the Year Introduction Video: <https://youtu.be/ZfTbCU4HYfE>

2021 Training Tuesday videos:

[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1Qlo6H\\_ztLmjc6EroNu-yE9o](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvmuVa0n1Qlo6H_ztLmjc6EroNu-yE9o)



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

Darlene Arneson, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom  
[darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) 608-828-5644 [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org)