

# Winnebago-Boone AGRICULTURE in the Classroom<sup>SM</sup>

Teacher Newsletter

August 2023

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is a statewide educational program. The goal of AITC is to help students and teachers gain a greater awareness of the role agriculture plays in our economy and society. Classes include a teaching time followed by a hands-on activity for the students. These programs run approximately 30-45 minutes in length.

Teachers may sign up for monthly programs via Jot Forms. A link will be emailed to the teacher to select a date and topic. If you do not currently receive our emails, please send a request to [wbfbaic@winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org](mailto:wbfbaic@winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org) to be added to our mailings. For more information or questions regarding the program, contact Diane Cleland at 815-962-0653 or email [wbfbaic@winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org](mailto:wbfbaic@winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org)



## September Programs

### Amazing Apples! *(Offered for grades 1 & 2)*



Students will learn about apples: apple development, trees, and changes that happen throughout the year. It's a great way to celebrate fall apple picking season. First grade students will make an apple life cycle craft to show what they learned. Second grade students will do a math and science activity using manipulatives.

### Crazy for Corn! *(Offered for grade 3)*

Illinois is known for growing corn...lots of it! Students will learn the differences between field corn, popcorn, and sweet corn and the many uses of corn in our world! They will be challenged to build a cornstalk out of biodegradable packing peanuts.



### Popcorn Country! *(Offered for grade 4)*

Popcorn is Illinois' state snack! Students will learn how popcorn grows, "pops", and the science behind the yummy treat. The presentation includes a "popping" demonstration, and the students will complete a Popcorn Facts literacy bag.



### Farmer's Market Fun *(Offered for grade 5)*

Students will learn how specialty growers market their products at Farmer's Markets. Students will design their own Farmer's market and decide what they will grow and how they will market their produce.

## October Programs

### Popular Pumpkins! *(Offered for grades 1 & 2)*

Did you know that Illinois is the #1 state for growing pumpkins? Students will learn about the pumpkin life cycle and how farmers grow the traditional symbol of fall. Students will make a pumpkin craft to show what they learned.



### **Some Pig!** *(Offered for grade 3)*

Celebrate National Pork Month with a lesson about amazing pigs and what they provide for our world. Students will explore the life cycle of a pig, animal husbandry of a hog farm, and the biproducts from a hog. The activity will include a STEM building activity where students will “build” a hog barn.



### **Super Soybeans** *(Offered for grade 4)*



Soybeans are a very versatile crop grown in Illinois. Soybeans are used in everything from cooking oils to soy biodiesel. Students will learn about how soybeans grow and their many uses in our world.

### **Tassel to Table** *(Offered for grade 5)*

Students will learn all the steps it takes to get corn chips from the farm to the table. The lesson will cover all the careers involved in the food industry. Students will complete a flow chart showing all the steps.



## **November Programs**

### **Turkey Talk!** *(Offered for grade 1)*



Students will learn about turkey farming and how turkeys are the traditional holiday food. They will learn what the birds eat, how they hatch from eggs, and how their feathers protect them. Students will do a turkey craft to reinforce what they learned.

### **Thanksgiving Feast!** *(Offered for grade 2)*

Students will learn how their Thanksgiving meal starts on a farm across the U.S., goes to the grocery store, and finally ends up on their dinner tables.



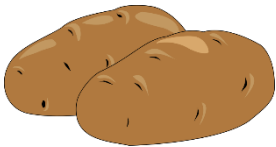
### **Crazy for Cranberries!** *(Offered for grade 3)*



Students will learn how cranberries grow and are harvested and turned into many foods we enjoy at the holidays and beyond. This program includes a STEM activity where students will predict what happens when cranberries are put into various liquids.

### **Growing Native American Heritage: Three Sisters** *(Offered for grade 4)*

This program explores the foods, customs, and stories that evolved from the planting of corn, beans, and squash by Native American tribes. Students will hear the legend of the Three Sisters and learn how plants do rely on each other to support the circle of life.



### **Pass the Potatoes, Please!** *(Offered for grade 5)*

Students will learn how this versatile vegetable grows. Each year Americans consume 30 pounds of potatoes per person!

Students will learn where all these potatoes grow and will participate in a weighing and measuring activity using various varieties of potatoes.

## **December Programs**

### **Jolly Ol' Evergreen Trees!** *(Offered for grade 1)*

Tree farmers have a lot of work to do year-round, not just in December! Students will learn about the life cycle of coniferous trees and what happens on a tree farm. Students will participate in a hands-on activity showing what they learned.



### **Gingerbread Farmhouse** *(Offered for grade 2)*

Students will learn that gingerbread houses start on a farm! They will explore how all the ingredients originate on a farm from somewhere in the world and decorate their own gingerbread farmhouse.



### **Candy Canes...Where Do They Come From?** *(Offered for grade 3)*



Students will learn about mint farming and how mint flavors delicious candy canes, toothpaste and more! Students will learn how mint grows and is processed into oil. Students will complete a hands-on activity.

### **Crazy for Chocolate!** *(Offered for grade 4)*



Many yummy treats for the holiday season include chocolate. Students will learn how cocoa beans grow and how they are turned into chocolate. Students will participate in a blind taste test of different types of chocolate and learn to read an ingredient label.



### **Snowflake Weather!** *(Offered for grade 5)*

Wilson Bentley was one of the first farmer-scientists to incorporate photography and microscopy into his work. He studied snowflakes and their uniqueness. Students will learn how snowflakes form and how winter weather affects the soil and crops. They will also do an activity to show what they learned in the lesson.

#### **For More information Contact:**

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#### **Ag in the Classroom Staff**

**2023-24**

Gwen Babler  
Diane Cleland  
Sarah Fitzgerald  
Angi Litow  
Holly Wiltfang

***This program is provided through generous donations from...***



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