

A *Winnebago-Boone* **AGRICULTURE** **in the Classroom**SM

Winter/Spring Newsletter

January, 2017

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is a nationwide educational program. Its' goal is to help students, teachers, and the general public gain a greater awareness of the role agriculture plays in the economy and society. Thousands of farm products are in the world around us: on our plate, in the clothes we wear, in the medicine that makes us well, and in earth-friendly fuels and plastics. The AITC program provides educational programs for students to learn about agriculture through hands-on activities. Ag in the Classroom is offered locally through the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau.

We would like to welcome the new schools who used AITC during the fall semester: Westview Elementary, Gregory Elementary, Froberg Elementary, Summerdale, and Pecatonica Elementary.

A list of seasonal programs is listed in this flier and available at **no charge** to schools. For a more complete list of kits and books please check out our website at winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org. To seek further information or to book a date for us to visit your school, please call Diane Cleland at (815) 962-0653, or wfbfbaic@live.com.

All programs align with the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Classes can be tailored for PreK-8th grade learning needs.

To schedule an event contact AITC at:
Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau
1925 S. Meridian Rd.
Rockford, IL 61102
Phone: (815)962-0653



Search Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Ag Literacy on Facebook, click the Like button, and keep up to date on upcoming events and programs!

Classroom Programs Designed for K-3rd Grade Classes

January

Farmers...Football...Fun!

As the Super Bowl hype ramps up during January, students will learn how agriculture plays a huge role in the game of football and the party foods we enjoy! Students will learn about dairy, hogs, cotton, wheat, corn, and veggies. A football craft is included. Duration: 45 minutes.



February

Candy Creations!



Celebrate Valentine's Day with a lesson about candy and how farmers raise the ingredients that go into candy making! What a yummy thought! During the program, the class will make Tootsie Rolls and enjoy them as a treat! Duration: 45 minutes.



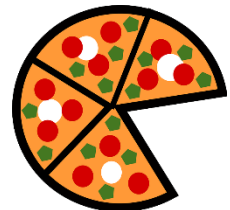
Cotton Roots....Celebrating Black History Month

If your class is learning about Black History Month, why not include a lesson about cotton production? During the class, students will learn how cotton grows, the many uses of cotton in our society, and have a chance to learn to "clean" cotton before the cotton gin was invented! Duration: 45 minutes

March

Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture

Students will learn how all the ingredients on a pizza begin on a farm! Students will learn about dairy, pork, wheat, and veggies! For an activity, they will make personal paper pizzas to take home. Duration: 45 minutes



Marvelous Maple Syrup!

As the temperature warms up and the snow starts to melt, the maple sap starts to run! Students will learn how sap is harvested and turned into syrup. Students will be introduced to the properties of a chemical change and taste maple syrup. Duration: 45 minutes

April and May

Gardening Greatness

Students will learn first-hand about plant germination and growth while they plant a seeds and watch them grow! Older students will make a "garden in a glove" and younger students will plant a "garden house". They will explore tomatoes and peppers learn how farmers grow their favorite veggies! Duration: 45 minutes



AITC Programs for 5th -8th Grade Students



Cotton Roots...Celebrating Black History Month

If your class is learning about Black History Month, why not include a lesson about cotton production? During the class, students will learn how cotton grows, the many uses of cotton in our society, and have a chance to learn to “clean” cotton before the cotton gin was invented!

Duration: 45 minutes



Super Soils and Wiggly Worms

Students will explore different types of soil, the importance of soil, and how farmers manage the soil to grow the best possible crops. A hands-on activity will allow students to examine the characteristics of sand, silt, and clay. Upon request, classes will also have the opportunity to explore composting worms and their importance to the soil. Duration: 45 minutes; works best in a science lab or multipurpose room. Water/sink required

Water, Water Everywhere!



Water is a precious commodity and highly valued by agriculture. In this lesson, students will learn how farmers work to protect the water system. Students will do a hands-on activity demonstrating how water runs off the topography of the land and observe a bioreactor demonstration. Duration: 45 minutes; works best in a science lab or multipurpose room. Water/sink required.

Powerful Pollinators

LOOK OUT! POLLINATORS ARE THE BUZZZZ! Explore the world pollinators with an interactive lesson discussing the importance of pollinators in agriculture and the world. This lesson will explain the complimentary relationships between pollinators and the plants they pollinate.

Duration: 45 minutes



Genius Genetics

Ever wonder why you look the way you do? It's Genetics! Students will get to try their hand as scientists to problem solve and create a new breed of beef cattle using Punnett squares. We will also go over some terms associated with Genetics, as well as how genetics are used in modern agriculture. Duration: 45 minutes

Within the Seed: Monocots and Dicots

This program pairs well with a plant science unit. During this program students will learn about different types of seeds, the parts of a seed, and the differences between monocots and dicots. Students will perform an experiment looking at specific seed parts and compare and contrast the starch content of a soybean versus a corn kernel. Duration: 45 minutes



What else is offered through Ag in the Classroom?

Agri-Learning Kits:

Ag in the Classroom has Agri-Learning Kits available for teachers to check out and use in their classrooms at your leisure. These kits are best suited for students in PreK-3rd grade. Agri-Learning kits include teacher's guides, books, videos, visuals, and hands on activities for students. A few of the kits we have available are: Seasons on the Farm, Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture, Getting to the Core: Apples and Orchards, and many more!



mAGic Kits:

Ag in the Classroom has mAGic kits available for teachers to check out and use in their classrooms. These kits are best suited for students in 4th-8th grade. mAGic Kits include lesson plans and supplies for activities and exercises. The activities included are: mapping, graphing, sequencing, reading, writing, critical thinking, experimenting, and research. A few of the kits we have available are: Poultry, Machines, Illinois, Insects, Dairy and more!

Middle School Career Fairs:

Ag in the Classroom is available to participate in career day activities. Agricultural careers are a growing sector in the marketplace. There is so much more to agriculture than farming and we need YOU to work with us to encourage students to consider a career in the Ag industry!

Thank You to the Schools We Visited During the Fall Semester!

Westview School, Rockford
Immanuel Lutheran, Belvidere
Lincoln Elementary, Belvidere
Poplar Grove Elementary
Rolling Green Elementary
McNair Elementary, Winnebago
Gregory Elementary, Rockford
Hillman School, Rockford
Washington Academy
Caledonia Elementary
Nelson School
Ralston Elementary

Simon School, Winnebago
Kishwaukee Elementary
Shirland School
Capron Elementary
Keith Country Day School
RESA, Rockford
Summerdale
Durand Elementary
Welsh Elementary
Carlson Elementary
Stone Creek, Roscoe
White Swan Elementary

Rockton Grade School
Washington Elementary, Belvidere
Durand Elementary
Manchester School
Pecatonica Elementary
Froberg Elementary, Rockford
North Boone Upper Elementary
Olson Park Elementary
North Boone Middle School
Marquette Elementary
Machesney Park Elementary

**BOONE COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

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