

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

Teacher Newsletter Spring Semester

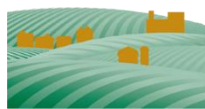
January 2023

Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) is a statewide educational program. The goal of AIRC 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 [wfbaitc@live.com](mailto:wfbaitc@live.com) to be added to our mailings. For more information or questions regarding the program, contact Diane Cleland at 815-962-0653 or email [wfbaitc@live.com](mailto:wfbaitc@live.com).



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



BOONE COUNTY  
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## January Program

**Delicious Dairy...Celebrate National Milk Day!** *(Offered for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades)*  
January 11<sup>th</sup> is National Milk Day! Help your students learn about milk and dairy products and their importance in a balanced diet. Students will learn how milk is produced, processed, and ends up in the grocery store. A dairy craft is included.



**Farmers...Football...Fun** *(Offered for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)*  
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.

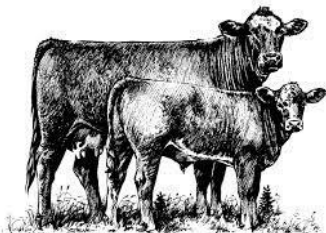
**The Farm Field Puzzle** *(Offered for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades)*

Farmers use drones to evaluate crops and soil health. In this lesson students will learn how drones are used in agriculture. They will also map out their own fields so they can grow the best possible crops.

## February Program

**Woolly Wonders...***(Offered for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades)*

Students will learn about sheep, what they eat and how they produce wool for us. Students will see raw wool, clean wool, and learn how it is spun into yarn. A sheep activity is included.



**Build a Calf Genetics Lesson** *(Offered for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades)*

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 simplified Punnett squares. We will also go over some terms associated with Genetics, as well as how genetics are used in modern agriculture.



**Cotton Roots...Celebrating Black History Month** *(Offered for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades)*

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!

## March Program



### **Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture** *(Offered for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)*

Students will learn how all the ingredients on a pizza begin on a farm! Students will learn about dairy, pork, wheat, and veggies! Students will do a hands-on pizza activity

### **Marvelous Maple Syrup!** *(Offered for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)*

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.



### **Moving Illinois Ag by Rail, Road, and River** *(Offered for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades)*

Illinois is a huge exporter of agricultural commodities! In this lesson, students will learn the history of the development of the Illinois road, rail, and river systems. This program pairs well with fourth grade social studies standards.



## April Program

### **Gardening Greatness** *(Offered for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades)*

Students will learn first-hand about plant germination and growth while they plant seeds and watch them grow! Older students will make a “garden in a glove” and younger students will plant a “sprout house”. They will explore how farmers grow their favorite veggies!



### **Wondering About Wheat?** *(Offered for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)*



How much do you and your students know about wheat? This program pairs well with a plant unit in science. Students will learn about the life cycle of wheat from seed to harvest. They will also participate in a hands-on threshing activity and wheat grinding.

### **Water, Water Everywhere!** *(Offered for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)*

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 also do an activity about the water cycle.



## May Program

### **Busy Buzzing Bees** *(Offered for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades)*

LOOK OUT! BEES ARE ALL THE BUZZZZ! Explore the world of Bees with an interactive lesson discussing the importance of bees in agriculture and the world food supply. This lesson includes a hands-on activity for students.



### **Picky Pollinators** *(Offered for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)*



Pollinators are extremely important in our world's food supply. In this lesson, students will learn how certain plants attract different pollinators and why. For an activity, students will create a "Throw and Grow" that can be taken home to plant and create more habitat for these important pollinators.

### **Super Soils** *(Offered for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)*

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.



## For More information Contact:

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Winnebago Boone Farm Bureau

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