

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

Fall Newsletter

August, 2017

Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) is a statewide 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. Locally, AIRC is excited to start its fifth year serving Winnebago and Boone county schools with "in-school field trips" available at **no charge**. Last year we visited nearly 60 area schools and met with over 19,000 students.

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

Some AIRC news...Miss Emily, has accepted a full time position at Byron Middle School teaching agriculture. We wish her all the best in her new endeavor! We are currently working to fill her position. Because of this staff change, we have included a list of all the programs available for the year. We encourage you to book your classes for both semesters as soon as possible. This will help us plan our staffing needs for the year and insure that you book the classes you want!

For additional information or questions about the program, contact Diane Cleland (815)962-0653 or email [wfbairc@live.com](mailto:wfbairc@live.com).

Programs are given by the Ag Literacy Coordinator or Ag Educator. AIRC will bring all necessary materials and provide teaching time, visual aids, and hands on activities for your students. Most programs leave behind materials for teachers to use for continued learning.

To schedule an event contact AIRC at:  
Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau  
1925 S. Meridian Rd.  
Rockford, IL 61102  
Phone: (815)962-0653  
Fax: 815-962-0022  
Email: [wfbairc@live.com](mailto:wfbairc@live.com)



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

# K-4th Grade Classes – Fall Semester

## September and October

### Amazing Apples!



Students will learn about apples: apple growth, trees, and changes that happen throughout the seasons. It's a great way to celebrate fall apple picking season. Our program pairs well with Apple orchard field trips! Students will make an apple life cycle craft to show what they learned. Duration: 45 minutes.

### Popular Pumpkins!

Students will learn about the pumpkin cycle, the history of pumpkins and their importance in Illinois! It's a great way to tie the fall holidays into your curriculum. Students will make a pumpkin necklace or a pumpkin life cycle craft to show what they learned. Duration: 45 minutes.



### Busy Buzzing Bees



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. This lesson includes a hands on activity for students. Duration: 45 minutes

## November

### Thanksgiving Feast!

Students will learn how their Thanksgiving meal starts on a farm, goes to the grocery store, and finally ends up on their dinner tables. For a treat, students will make pumpkin pie in a bag! Duration: 45 minutes.



### Wondering About Wheat?



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. Also, they will participate in a hands on germination activity and wheat grinding. Duration: 45 minutes

**\*\* Upon request a gluten lesson can be included\*\***

## December

### Jolly Ol' Evergreen Trees!

Students will learn about the production, history, and growing stages of Evergreen trees through a story book as well as visuals. Students will also participate in a hands on activity. Our program helps to get the winter holidays off to a great start, and will help you tie agriculture into your curriculum! Duration: 45 minutes.



# K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes -Winter Semester

## 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.



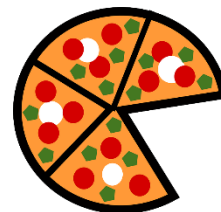
### Cotton Roots....Celebrating Black History Month

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 and learn how farmers grow their favorite veggies! Duration: 45 minutes



# AITC Programs for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade

## Offered September - May



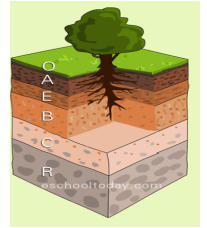
### Cotton Roots

If your class is learning about plants or even Black History Month in February, 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. Duration: 45 minutes; works best in a science lab or multipurpose room. Water/sink required

**\*\*Upon request: Classes will have the opportunity to explore composting worms and their importance to the soil\*\***



### 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

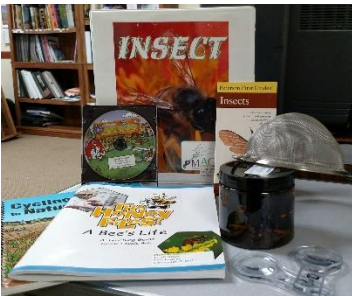
This program pairs well with a plant science unit and is best suited for older students. During this program students will learn about different types of seeds, the parts of a seed, and the importance of seed maintenance. Students will perform an experiment looking at specific seed parts and compare 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 and curriculum. These kits are best suited for students in K – 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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. The kits available are: Poultry, Machines, Illinois, Insects, Dairy, Plants.

### **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!

### **Teacher Institute Days:**

Ag in the Classroom is available to come to your school for institute day programs. A staff member will come equipped to demonstrate the resources we provide, explain how to incorporate them in your classrooms, and give teachers "hands-on" activities!

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## **Many thanks to these school districts for using AITC in the past school year....**

North Boone  
Belvidere  
Winnebago  
Shirland  
Durand  
Pecatonica

Rockford  
Harlem  
Kinnikinnick  
*Private Schools:*  
Keith Country Day  
Immanuel Lutheran School



## **AITC Program Request and Planning Form**

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of grade sections:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual Class Times:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please allow at least 5 minutes between classes for reset/move time.)*

<b>Program Name</b>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Date Choice</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Date Choice</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Date Choice</b>

***Please email to [wfbaitc@live.com](mailto:wfbaitc@live.com), fax to 815-962-0022, or call 815-962-0653***

***All program dates will be confirmed via email to the teacher making the request.***