

Teacher Newsletter Spring Semester

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@winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org to be added to our mailings.

For more information or questions regarding the program, contact Diane Cleland at 815-962-0653 or email wfbaitc@winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org



This Program is provided through generous donations from...



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS



BOONE COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



January Programs

Delicious Dairy...Celebrate National Milk Day! (Offered for grades 1 & 2)



January 11th 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 grade 3)

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 grade 4)

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.

All About Rice (Offered for grade 5)

Students will learn that rice is a primary staple food for half the people of the world. They will also learn how rice grows and the characteristics of different types of rice.



February Programs



Woolly Wonders (Offered for grade 1)

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.

You've Goat to be Kidding! (Offered for grade 2)

Students will learn about different kinds of goats, what they provide for us and how they are farmed around the world. A goat activity is included!



Build a Calf Genetics Lesson (Offered for grade 3)



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.

From Boll to Blue Jeans (Offered for grade 4)

Students will learn how cotton is grown and harvested. They will also learn the many uses of cotton in our world. Students will make a cotton bracelet to wear.



Hungry Planet (Offered for grade 5)

Hungry Planet is a book by Peter Menzel who studied families around the world and their food buying patterns. Students will learn how families around the world source their food. They will learn food choices are decided by crops grown, supply availability, and financial resources.



March Programs

Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture (Offered for grade 1)

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 grade 2)

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 make a maple syrup craft.

Horsing Around (Offered for grade 3)

Horses have been used in farming for centuries and were used to coin the modern term horsepower. Students will learn about different types of horses and do a measuring activity using horse “hands”.



Moving Illinois Ag by Rail, Road, and River (Offered for grade 4)

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.

Powerful Peanuts (Offered for grade 5)

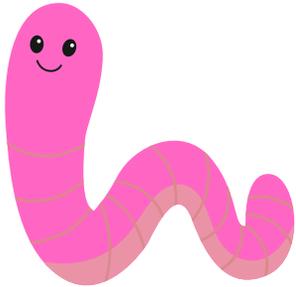
Students will learn about George Washington Carver and his contribution to American agriculture. They also will learn how peanuts grow and how the US exports peanuts around the world. **Note: Educators will NOT bring peanuts to the classroom!**



April Programs

Gardening Greatness (Offered for grade 1)

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



Wiggly Worms (Offered for grade 2)

Love those wiggly wonders? So do your students! Students will learn the importance of worms and their significance to healthy soil. They will also do a worm life cycle activity.

Wondering About Wheat? (Offered for grade 3)

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 hands-on threshing activity and wheat grinding.

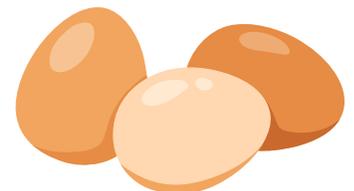


Water, Water Everywhere! (Offered for grade 4)

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.

Eggs-citing Anatomy (Offered for grade 5)

Students will learn about the anatomy of an egg and chick development. Students will label parts of an egg.



May Programs

Busy Buzzing Bees (Offered for grades 1 & 2)

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 grade 3)

Pollinators are extremely important in our world's food supply. In this lesson, student will learn how certain plants attract different pollinators and why. For an activity students will create a picky pollinator will a partner.



Super Soils (Offered for grade 4)

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.



Soil Core Sampling (Offered for grade 5)

Farmers do soil sampling in their fields to see what fertilizers they will need to apply to grow a successful crop. Students will do a core sampling activity to simulate soil sampling.



For more information contact:

Diane Cleland Ag Literacy Coordinator

Winnebago Boone Farm Bureau

Phone: 815-962-0654 Ext. 105

wfbfbaic@winnebago Boone Farm Bureau.org

Ag in the Classroom Staff 2025-26

Gwen Babler

Diane Cleland

Sarah Fitzgerald

Angi Litow

Holly Wiltfang

Sam Burbach