

Connecting to Agriculture

Spring 2024

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunity

Educator Adventure Summer Agricultural Institute

June 17-18

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Carlinville

Registration by **May 28** *Space is limited.*

Participants earn 14 professional development hours or 1 graduate credit.

Investigate Illinois' #1 industry - agriculture! While employing nearly 1 million people, agriculture generates more than \$25 billion annually to Illinois' economy. Come explore firsthand some of these many careers and

aspects of the industry around us. During this institute, educators will



- try hands-on multidisciplinary activities all correlated to the Illinois Learning Standards
- build first-hand knowledge through traveling workshops showcasing the diversity of agriculture
- receive engaging, classroom-ready resources while earning professional development hours or graduate credit
- learn about grant money for projects



Carlinville Primary Teacher Grant Project

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom grant winner Cathy Kulenkamp who teaches first grade at Carlinville Primary shares how they used the grant: "This classroom grant enabled students to learn about local crops grown such as corn and soybeans. They enjoyed learning about the farm machinery used to plant and harvest the crops. The new farm read alouds also helped students make connections to Mrs. Niemann's Ag lessons and build background knowledge."



Do you have a project you could use some grant funding for? Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom annual grant applications are usually due in October. Information about

next year's grant will be available at agintheclassroom.org.

Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program

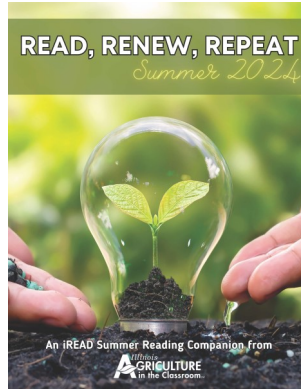
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Connie Niemann
Agricultural Literacy Coordinator
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iREAD Summer Reading Companion

Gearing up for summer reading programs? Check out Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's 2024 iREAD Summer Reading companion to find their favorite ag-accurate books and accompanying IAITC lessons aligning with this year's iREAD theme: Read, Renew, Repeat.



Professional Development continued

Traveling workshop and institute topics will include:

- **Specialty crops:** Learn about a diverse farming operation including specialty crops such as strawberries, asparagus, blackberries, blueberries, and peaches; homegrown products including canned and baked goods; and traditional crops of corn, soybeans, and wheat.
- **Wholesale flower supplier:** located in St. Louis on "Flower Row", you will see flowers and plants that are shipped in from around the world.
- **Plant science:** learn about state-of-the-art research and breeding to deliver improved seed performance and plant protection using less land, water and energy.
- **Hands-on activities:** Explore hands-on agricultural activities and receive resources to use in the classrooms.



Cost: institute fee \$30 (includes meals, hands-on activity supplies, & classroom resources)
optional 1 graduate credit from University of St. Francis for an additional \$100

Note: Participants may drive to area traveling workshop sites on their own or carpool with the coordinator and other educators. Sites will be within 72 miles of Carlinville.

Deadline: Please register by **May 28**
go.illinois.edu/Agventure2024



To learn more, please contact Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Coordinator Connie Niemann at 217-854-9604 or e-mail cniemann@illinois.edu.

Thank you Program Sponsors!

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