

Illinois
AGRICULTURE
in the ClassroomSM

**Marshall-Putnam
Agriculture in the
Classroom
Program Book
2020-2021**



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Welcome to the 2020 –2021 school year! It is invigorating to be at the beginning of a brand new year anticipating the ideas and activities that will unfold during the year. The University of Illinois Extension Marshall-Putnam Ag in the Classroom Program may be able to help you with some new experiences for your class. What exactly is the Ag in the Classroom Program? Briefly stated, it is a program that supplies resource materials and assistance to educators in ways that help them incorporate agriculture into their daily studies.

There are many topics to choose from which can be molded around your current curriculum. We can work together to make our curriculum supplement yours. Most lessons last about 30 minutes, and are hands-on and experiential. I can come into the classroom, or present in virtual ways. AITC is flexible in order to meet the needs of its educators! All we ask, for policy's sake, is that the teacher remain in the classroom to assist with the lessons.

This program is designed to acquaint students with all kinds of fascinating information about the world of agriculture. If visiting your classroom is not an option, you may also check out any of the **10 Agriscience Kits** for 2 weeks. Everything needed to perform several hands-on activities is included in each kit. Your students will love working through the activities. If you need any assistance in presenting, I am always available to help.

We also have **6 AgriLearning Kits** available for teachers in grades K – 4 to use. These kits are meant to be resources for different agricultural themes. Each kit contains: a video, some books, ideas for activities, and consumables. Check out time is limited limited to 1 week, unless agreed upon ahead of time. Our seasonal kits are very popular, and one week allows us to serve more students! Be sure to get your reservation in early for these popular themes.

All of our kits, materials, and resources are available at no charge. Also, I will deliver and pick up the kits for you. You never have to leave your building (except to go home)! We hope to supplement your curriculum and be a partner to you in your classroom.

I am also planning several programs in addition to the ones listed in this program book. Be sure to check the AITC emails that I send to learn about what is being offered. If you have an interest in any special agriculture topic that you would like to see me offer, please feel free to communicate with me. I will do my best to find something that fits your needs!

I wish each of you an uplifting year as you teach the youth of Marshall and Putnam counties. If there is anyway I can assist you in that endeavor, please call!

Samantha Smoode
M-P Ag in the Classroom Community Worker

M-P Ag in the Classroom Program

- Presentations are approximately 30 minutes long, unless otherwise indicated.
- If you are teaching topics that connect with agriculture, but are not listed here, we may have access to other programs that could fit your needs; please ask!
- Some programs are appropriate for multiple grades.
- Check-out for kits is two weeks.
- All kits and resources are delivered and picked up at your school.

	Grade	Description
✓	Preschool	
	Visits from Farmer Mac	Farmer Mac, the puppet, teaches about a variety of farm topics from harvest to farm animals
	Teacher Special Request	Many topics tie agriculture with your curriculum. Please contact me for information.
✓	Kindergarten	
	Taste of Apples - September/October	After tasting 4 different varieties of apples, students rate their preferences with a simple graph.
	What's in My Cheeseburger? - November	Students identify original source of every food that makes up a hamburger sandwich.
	Time for Cranberries - December	How do cranberries grow? What do cranberries taste like? What are some cranberry experiments...we will find out!
	Who Grew My Soup? - January	This delightful story encourages a discussion of trying new foods for better health. Students make a tomato spinner that sequences the key points.
	Beautiful Bovine - February	By turning a student into a cow we identify key parts of a cow and how they function for the cow.
	April Foolishness - March	All the animals on the farm are acting strange. We will find out why and along the way learn how these animals contribute to our breakfast.
	The Bean Book- May	Students explore the inside of a lima bean and make a booklet that describes each part of a seed.
	Teacher Special Request	Many topics tie agriculture with your curriculum. Please contact me for information.
✓	Grade 1	
	Taco Ag - September	Can we find agriculture in our tacos? Absolutely. Students will make a visual of an agriculture taco.
	The Pumpkin Life Cycle - October	From seed to pumpkin, students learn how pumpkins are grown. They make a pumpkin book.
	Turkey Time - November	This lesson teaches about wild and commercial turkeys; Students try writing with a real quill.
	Where Do You Get Those Blue Jeans?- January	Cotton is a plant most of our students have never seen. Students explore a cotton boll and make a sequence book from cotton to blue jeans.

✓	Grade 1 Continued	
	George Washington Carver – February	Celebrating Black History, students learn about the contributions of this great American scientist.
	Very Hungry Illinois Caterpillar - March	Illinois grows many specialty crops in addition to corn & soybeans. Students make lifecycle of a Monarch visual
	The Bee Promenade - May	Students participate in acting out the roles bees take in a colony.
✓	Grade 2	
	What's in Your Lunchbox? September	My Plate can be a guide for a healthy lunch. Students make their own paper lunchbox and fill it with examples from every food category.
	Soybeans A to Z – October	Students explore soybeans and take part in a demonstration of soy lip balm
	Farm Animal Accordion Books – Nov/Dec	Students fill accordion books with information they gather from reading charts about farm animals
	Popcorn: Illinois's State Snack - January	Students learn about (and taste) our state snack
	Farmer President - February	George Washington was an avid farmer. Learn about what crops he grew. Focus on wheat.
	Water Cycle - March	Students make soda bottle terrariums as they learn about needs of plants.
	Beefo Bingo - May	The many uses for beef and beef byproducts are discovered by playing simple game.
	Teacher Special Request	Many topics tie agriculture with your curriculum. Please contact me for information.
<p>The following program topics are for suggested grades but may fit in curriculums of different grades. Please consider what ties in with your classroom studies.</p>		
✓	Grade 3	
	Oinko Bingo	Students learn of the many by-products of pork by playing this game
	Turkey Trouble Escape Box	Working in groups, students solve clues to open 2 breakout boxes
	Cranberry Science	Use acidic properties of cranberries to test for acids and bases
	Simple Machines	Identifying simple machines; making model samples
	Squishy Circuits	Making simple circuits using playdough
	Garden in A Glove	Students observe the germination of 5 different garden seeds; They chart their observations
	Teacher Special Requests	Many topics tie agriculture with your curriculum. Please contact me for information.

Grade 4	
Corn- Our Renewable Resource	Corn is a renewable resource; Students make corn plastic.
Wool	Students will ply wool and make a bracelet
Design an Insect	What makes an insect an insect? Students will learn the parts of an insect, discuss their habitat and create a unique insect using that information.
Whatever Happened to B.B. Wolf? Escape Box Activity	Working in groups, students solve clues to open 2 locked boxes. Along the way, students learn many facts about pigs.
Pumpkin Patch Pie	Illinois is the largest pumpkin growing state. Students will learn about this commodity and make pumpkin pie in a bag.
Soil Exploration	Students learn about soil properties, explore soil textures firsthand and make an edible soil profile.
Every Tree for Itself	This interactive activity helps students learn tree parts and functions
Illinois Topography	An overview of Illinois's Natural Divisions due to glacier movements; Students make a topographical map of Illinois
Illinois Mapping	What are some of the commodities unique to Illinois? Students discover where some of Illinois commodities and original products originated.
Teacher Special Request	Many topics tie agriculture with your curriculum. Please contact me for information.
Grade 5	
The Science of Coagulation: Making Cottage Cheese	Students learn about the chemical process that causes milk to coagulate as they work in groups to make this simple cheese.
Incredible Journey	With a roll of the die, students follow the movement of a molecule of water in the water cycle;
Ooblick and Gluep	Students explore properties of solids, liquids, and polymers as they make their own silly putty.
Absorbency and Saturation at the Ag Research Lab	Working in groups, students follow scientific procedures to determine the amount of water to saturate 4 unknown substances
O-Wing Experiment	Students construct and test o-wings of various sizes to determine their flight distance.
Water We Drink	Students will observe filtering process of water, discuss a watershed
Biotechnology in Your Lunchbox	Basic information about DNA and biotechnology; Students extract DNA from strawberries.
Soil Escape Box – (45 Minutes)	Students work in teams, solving problems to unlock the box. Practices critical thinking skills.
Teacher Special Request	Many topics tie agriculture with your curriculum. Please contact me for information.

√	Embryology Unit	All the resources you need to hatch chicks in the classroom. Includes incubator, egg turner, 1 dozen fertilized eggs'
√	AgriLearning Kits (K-6)	Description
	Getting to the Core: Apples and Orchards	Books, activities, lessons, posters
	Pumpkin Patch: A Vine Through Time	Books, activities, lessons, posters
	Unraveling Fibers: More Than Just Clothes	Books, activities, lessons, posters
	Eggsploring Poultry: Cracking the Egg	Books, activities, lessons, posters
	Dairy Cow Capers: Exploring dairy Farming and Nutrition	Books, activities, lessons, posters
	Pondering Pizza: A Slice of Agriculture	Books, activities, lessons, posters
√	Additional Ag Kits	Description
	Candy and Other Sweet Treats	Books, activities, lessons
	Seasons on the Farm	Ag Activities based on the four seasons
	Adventures Around the Farm	Lots of farm activities for younger children/
	A Hog Ate My Homework (Grade 2-6)	Activities to accompany book by Gary Metivier.
	Soil Erosion	Six "missions" for students to work through about soil
	Wheat	Books, activities, lessons, posters
	Agricultural Tub of Books	Assorted books on agriculture

√	Agri-Resource Kits (K-5)	√	
	Bees, Butterflies & Insects		Pigs
	Corn		Weather
	Corn to Ethanol Model		Wool
	Horses		
	IDNR Field Trip Back Pack		

√	mAGic Kits (4+)	√	
	Dairy		Plant
	Illinois		Poultry
	Insect		Soil
	Machine		
√	AgMags	√	Available in print or online version
	Beef		Corn
	Dairy		Horse *NEW*
	Illinois History		Nutrition
	Pizza		Pork
	Seasons		Soil
	Soybeans		Wheat
	Urban		Apple
	Careers		Horticulture
	Livestock		Renewable Energy
	Specialty Crops		Pollinators
	Poultry *NEW*		Pumpkin
	Tree		Water
	Ag Innovations		Natural Resource
	Sheep		Cotton
	Bee		Plant Breeding
	School Garden		Energy
	Food Waste		Entomology
	Snacks		Topics you would like me to look into:

Terra Nova Pages (4th grade + reading level), I am able to look into what topics are available and report to you if you would like to use them.

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Interactive AgMags

Online interactive AgMags are provided both by the Illinois Ag in the Classroom along with the American Farm Bureau Association.

- ⇒ <http://agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/AgMags.shtml>
- ⇒ <https://www.agfoundation.org/ag-lit-catalog/list?category=187>

Ag Readers/Terra Novas

- ⇒ http://agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/terra_nova.shtml

Virtual Lessons

- Due to the pandemic, lessons may be done virtually via Zoom or prerecorded. With schools currently doing different learning models, we can discuss the best option for you, and your class.
- Please let me know if your school has a policy regarding materials and an "isolation" period. I will be sure to deliver them ahead of time to have them ready for the lesson date.

How to Participate in AITC:

- Email me at smoode@illinois.edu *or*
- Call the office: **309-364-2356** *or*
- Complete (and email) this registration sheet: **Enrollment Form**