

Connecting to Agriculture

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September 2024

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Reimagine Your Science Time

Awesome Agriculture is a free, web-based video and lesson series intended to help you bring engaging science topics into your classroom every week! Learn about each of our agriculture focus areas with a thought-provoking question and watch a video answer from an Illinois farmer. Then, dig deeper with a multitude of accompanying lessons and resources.

Explore scientific reasoning from the farm to the classroom iaitc.co/awesome.



Carlinville Teacher's Book Grant

Mrs. Belusko's first grade class at Carlinville Primary School enjoyed learning about the way food is celebrated among different cultures of the world through the Illinois Ag in the Classroom Book Grant. The students' favorite books were the History of Pizza and Dumpling Day! They made their own pizzas and learned about different dumplings all over the world.



Apply for a book or project grant for the opportunity to stock your classroom library with some of our favorite new accurate books, or to purchase materials to

conduct a new agricultural-based project with your students. Applications due October 18. Learn more and apply at iaitc.co/grants.

Macoupin County
Agricultural Literacy Program

#60 Carlinville Plaza • Carlinville, IL 62626

217-854-9604 • extension.illinois.edu/cjmm/agricultural-literacy

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Educator Agventure Institute

Ten educators from Calhoun, Greene, Macoupin, and Montgomery counties explored more about agriculture during the Educator Agventure Summer Agricultural Institute conducted by the Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program June 17-18. During the institute, educators toured several sites and tried hands-on activities as they learned more about the agriculture industry. Educators earned 14 professional development hours.

Traveling workshops included Backwoods Berry Farm in Hettick, Baisch & Skinner in St. Louis, and Bayer Crop Science in Chesterfield, MO.



Teachers picked fresh blueberries as Dale and Becky Conrady shared how they grow and market their crops during their Summer Agricultural Institute Backwoods Berry Farm tour.

Teachers completed many hands-on activities, learned more about agriculture and career opportunities, and received resources to use in their classrooms. Presenters included Lee Deal from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom, Olivia Hoots from Illinois Beef Association, and Connie Niemann from Macoupin County Agricultural Literacy Program.

On their evaluation one teacher said: "The understanding of the Ag world I gained has



As a part of the Summer Agricultural Institute traveling workshops, teachers learned about the wholesale flower market at Baisch and Skinner in St. Louis from Bob Baisch pictured at right.

been phenomenal also the site tours are fantastic!" Another commented, "The traveling workshops give you a chance to see things you wouldn't normally get to see and then share with your students." When asked what they would tell another educator, teachers shared, "It can be taught in any subject area." Others said it was very educational, fun, with lots of valuable free resources, worth it.

The following educators attended the institute: Rachel Bethard, Becky Fritz, and Robyn Gieson from BenGil Elementary; Chad Brodbeck and Amy Manker from Brussels School District; Richard Cooper from Lutheran High School in Springfield; Shane Feltes from Carrollton School District; Karen Kinder from St. Mary School in Brussels; Janice Meyer from Greenfield School District; and Jennie Satterlee from Nokomis High School.

This program and all the resources are made possible by local sponsors. We appreciate the support of our sponsors, our traveling workshop sites and presenters that helped make this institute a success.



Back to School Activity

Deepen your students understanding of the connections between agriculture and school by watching how pencils, notebooks, and paper are made! Find the videos here:

agintheclassroom.org/awesome-agriculture/back-to-school/



GREAT BOOKS, COOL SCIENCE, AND AWESOME AGRICULTURE

October 1, 2024 | 6 - 7:15 p.m.

FREE
Professional
Development

With the continued focus on literacy, it's hard to find time for science instruction during the school day. But what if you could teach important scientific concepts while also reading engaging and exciting children's literature? Join IL Agriculture in the Classroom as they show you how you can read great books, teach the NGSS, and even help students appreciate the awesome agriculture all around them -- all at the same time!

WEBINAR WILL BE HOSTED VIA ZOOM | ONE PD HOUR

REAL TALK
for teachers
WEBINAR SERIES



REGISTER BY

September

17

AND WE'LL
SEND YOU A

PACK OF MATERIAL TO USE
DURING THIS HANDS-ON
ACTIVITY-FILLED SESSION.



stfrancis.edu/real/professional-learning

IAITC is partnering with University of St. Francis once again for a REAL Talk for Teachers Webinar that's FREE for educators! Join them on Zoom, earn an hour of PD

credit, and get a bunch of cool ideas for your classroom this year. Learn more and sign up here: <https://www.stfrancis.edu/real/professional-learning/>

Hands-on Learning Kits

Enhance your lessons with hands-on learning kits. Inside the kits, you'll find a treasure trove of materials, including lesson plans, activity guides, informative posters, and engaging experiments. Each kit is tailored to multi-grade levels, ensuring that the content is age-appropriate and aligns with your curriculum requirements. These kits are a fantastic resource to spark discussions and provide hands-on opportunities for your students to explore important agricultural concepts while addressing the Illinois Learning Standards in ELA, math, science, and social studies.



Explore Your Agricultural Connection

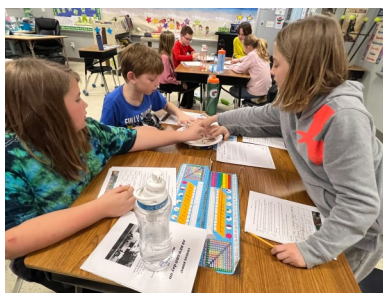
Agriculture is more than just farming; it's a diverse industry that impacts every aspect of our lives. By increasing awareness and understanding of agriculture, we empower future generations to make informed decisions about food, the environment, and their own careers.



Our program provides interactive educational learning activities for students, teachers, and the public about agriculture in fun and creative ways.

Classroom programs for students (K-12) are available upon request on

various agricultural topics such as plants and seeds, soils, water, careers, renewable resources, corn, soybeans, wheat, animal nutrition, agricultural products, fiber/clothing, insects, beef, dairy, pork, embryology, apples, pumpkins, agricultural economics and marketing, technology, genetics, and watersheds. To schedule an agricultural connection program for your classroom, please contact Connie at cniemann@illinois.edu or 217-854-9604.



Thank you Program Sponsors!

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