



July 2013
Ag in the Classroom Newsletter
for County Leaders

Does your county have people attending one of the August meetings?

In order to start the school year out with all the resources and training that you need, **please try to have at least 1-2 people from your county attend one of the four August AITC meetings!** Two will focus on the Soybean Science Kit training which has often been asked for. Even if your kit coordinator can't attend, send a teacher, volunteer, FFA member or others that might use the kit so that you have someone with "fresh training" available to help with your kit and increase usage. The Ag in the Classroom Information Meetings offer an opportunity to learn more about Ag in the Classroom, Soybean Science Kit training, educational resources, and activities you can use to teach others about agriculture. **The meetings and training are open to Ag in the Classroom (AITC) volunteers, 4-H Extension staff and club leaders, agriculture education instructors, FFA Food for America committee chairmen, FFA Alumni, commodity groups, home school parents, teachers, Farm Bureau members and others interested in learning more about Ag in the Classroom.** Registrations are due August 10. **Schedule for the day:** 9 a.m.- Registration; 9:30 a.m.- Begin training; 4 p.m.- Adjourn.

What will be covered?

The Stevens Point (August 22) and DeForest (August 23) meetings will have Soybean Science Kit Training. Fred Henderson, developer of the Soybean Science Kits, will lead the training. An abbreviated AITC resource update will be held during the day. Thank you to the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Program for their support of Soybean Science Kits, promotion and training in Wisconsin!

The Appleton (August 21) and Eau Claire (August 27) meetings will offer a variety of agricultural literacy training for all grade levels! Topics covered: agricultural education resources, AITC Matching Grant and Teacher Mini-Grant information, 2013-14 essay contest topic and lessons, Soybean Science Kits, Book of the Year program, and other Wisconsin and American Farm Bureau AITC resources. There will be time have discussion, ask questions, hands-on activities and share ideas about programs and activities.

Registration 9 a.m.-start at 9:30 a.m.- end at 4 p.m.

The meetings located around the state. You are welcome to attend any of the meetings depending on the location, date and time that works for you!

- **Wednesday, August 21, Comfort Suites, 3809 W. Wisconsin Ave, Appleton, WI 54914**
General AITC training, resources and activities covering a variety of grade levels, commodities and hands-on activities.
- **Thursday, August 22, Comfort Suites, 300 Division St. N., Stevens Point, WI 54481**
Soybean Science Kit Training with an abbreviated session on Ag in the Classroom programs and activities.
- **Friday, August 23- Comfort Inn and Suites, 5025 CTH V, DeForest, WI 53532**
Soybean Science Kit Training with an abbreviated session on Ag in the Classroom programs and activities.
- **Tuesday, August 27, The Plaza, 1202 West Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701**
General AITC training, resources and activities covering a variety of grade levels, commodities, and hands-on activities.

Registration Details and Information

There is a \$10 charge per participant. Registrations with payments are due August 10. Please contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5719 with questions.

Ag in the Classroom Fall Information Meetings and Soybean Science Kit Training 2013

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Circle one: AITC County Coordinator AITC County Committee Member
 AITC Essay Contest Coordinator Ag Instructor- FFA Advisor
 FFA Alumni Member Farm Bureau Member
 4-H or Extension Teacher or Home School Parent
 FFA member 4-H Member

Other _____

County: _____

I wish to attend this workshop:

Date _____ Location _____

_____ # participants x \$10 each = \$_____ (make checks to WFB Foundation)

Return form and payment to:

Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Ag in the Classroom, PO Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705

Registrations are due August 10!

(AITC CODE # 991034)

2013 Deadlines and Activities

Note: All dates are "postmarked by" deadlines.

August

- 1 Confirm county AITC Essay Contest coordinators
- 21 AITC County Coordinator Meeting- Appleton
- 22 AITC County Coordinator Meeting- Stevens Point
- 23 AITC County Coordinator Meeting- Deforest
- 27 AITC County Coordinator Meeting- Eau Claire

October

- 15- White-Reinhardt Educator Scholarships due to WFBF (forms online from www.agfoundation.org)
- 15- White-Reinhardt Mini-Grant applications due to WFBF (forms online from www.agfoundation.org)
- 15 Outstanding Teacher Applications due

Essay Contest Topic and Book of the Year Selected

I met with the WFBF Women's Committee and they selected the 2013-14 Essay Contest topic and Book of the Year:

- Book of the Year: ***First Peas to the Table*** by Susan Grigsby. This book brings in the historical aspect with references to Thomas Jefferson and his garden research. It offers us some great ties to school gardens, plant related hands-on activities and other lessons.
- Essay topic: ***Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us***

I will be contacting sponsors for the essay contest and developing educational resources, lesson plans, and activities for both programs. The updated order forms and resources will be ready for our August meetings! To save shipping costs and if you're attending a meeting, let me know how many copies of the new book you want and I can bring them along. You will need to bring a check or arrange payment by the end of August though!

Food & Farm Facts Activity Cards for grades 4-6 and 7-12

These new collections of 12 easy-to-implement activities support learning with *Food and Farm Facts*, developed for grades 4-6 and 7-12 using National Learning Standards & Common Core. Curriculum areas include: math, science, social science, health and language arts. Each activity card includes step-by-step instructions, discussion questions and an estimated time for completion. Available now from Wisconsin Farm Bureau – Ag in the Classroom or if you need larger amounts, it is less expensive (only paying one set of postage and shipping) to order them directly from www.agfoundation.org



We're looking for a high school to participate in the AFBFA Essay Contest!

It's that time again! We are gearing up for the 2013-2014 Agriculture in a Growing World Grant and Essay Contest. The first part of this program is the grant. States can encourage schools to apply for a grant of up to 20 copies of *The Man Who Fed the World* and accompanying curriculum. **Applications will be online starting August 1.** When someone submits an application from your state a copy of this application will come to the State Literacy Coordinator (Darlene Arneson in Wisconsin). **Only one school per state will be selected.**

When the grant closes on October 1, 2013 we ask that you select one of the schools that applied to be the winner of the grant.

We hope that you will help promote the Agriculture in a Growing World Grant and Essay Contest as the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture continues to build awareness, understanding, and a positive public perception of agriculture through education. Promotional materials for the grant and essay contest are available here: <http://vivayicsolutions.com/AFBFA/>. **Schools:** To apply for the Agriculture in a Growing World Grant, go to <http://bit.ly/MGURJ>. For more information, e-mail educationdirector@fb.org or call **800.443.8456**.

Are your county reports turned in?

Your reports are critical in supplying the information I need for my required reports.

The county AITC coordinator is responsible for compiling the **County AITC Report** which is due July 1. At the time of printing, I **DO NOT** have reports from: Brown, Clark, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Jackson, Jefferson, Kenosha, Kewaunee, LaCrosse, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Polk, Portage, Price, Rock, Rusk, Shawano, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Waukesha, Winnebago and Wood. If you are one of these counties, please take time to fill it out! Additional copies can be found under "Volunteer Resources" on the www.wisagclassroom.com website. **Please check with the other coordinators (Soybean Science Kit, Essay Coordinators) to provide accurate numbers – so that only one report is sent in from the county!!**

Some of you wear all three hats for your county (Ag in the Classroom, Soybean Science Kit, and Essay Coordinators) but many counties have different people or have multiple Soybean Science Kits. I really would like to have ONE report come back from the county that reflects everyone's numbers! On the www.wisagclassroom.org website under **COUNTY INFORMATION**, you can see who is listed as your county contacts for these three areas. Some of you also have two people listed as the County AITC Coordinator. Please work together to compile your numbers and just send back one report if possible.

At the time of this printing, I **DO NOT** have **Soybean Science Kit** reports from: Adams, Barron (2 kits), Buffalo, Calumet, Chippewa/Dunn, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Door, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac-SAGES, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kewaunee, LaCrosse, Lafayette (2 kits), Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Pierce, Price, Racine, Richland, Rock, Rusk, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Superior Shores, Tempealeau, UW-Madison, UW-River Falls, UW-Platteville, Vernon, Walworth, Washburn/Sawyer, Waukesha, Winnebago and Wood. Please look at the kit coordinators on the website as not all are housed with an AITC county coordinator- some are with extension, ag instructors, and other locations.

Why fill out the reports? They help us to document in both reports Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is required to provide to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and to the USDA. I need to document the number of students, schools and teachers reached; the number of dollars invested by county programs and sponsors; the number of volunteer hours; the types of activities that are being conducted; and other information asked in your report. Usage reports are also critical as I approach sponsors and funders who help offset the costs of many of our Soybean Science Kits, Amazing Corn Books and other resources.

Confirming Essay Contest Coordinators Too!

Having one person as the essay contest coordinator allows us to have direct communication with one person about essay judging, distributing information, offering teachers and parents one place to send essays, give WFBF Women's Committee members a county contact to receive winning essays from and other valuable advantages. In order to get all my materials ready for the August meetings, I need to verify who your county contact will be. A mailing was sent out to the 2012-13 essay coordinators asking them to respond. **If I don't hear back from your county by the end of next week, I will assume that I can use last year's essay coordinator's name.** If there is a unique situation with your county, I'll be in touch with you directly or with the District Coordinator. For counties that didn't have a coordinator last year and I was listed, I would really like to have someone in charge of the contest! This list will go out with the essay mailing and will be available on-line as the contest continues throughout the year. As changes occur, we'll update the website listing so teachers and students have the correct address to send their essays to.

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is now on Facebook!

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program

You are posting, commenting, and liking as Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program — Change to Darlene Arneson

Admin Panel Edit Page Build Audience Help Show

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program

199 likes · 3 talking about this · 0 were here

Agricultural Service · Education
Your source for agriculture education! To find more information and resources go to www.wisagclassroom.org.

199 Madison

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151495837547610&set=a.10150873898227610.406558.102673522609&type=1>

“Like Us” at Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program

We will be using this page to keep you updated on upcoming activities, posting while at events, and sharing many of our activities.

Please invite your teachers, volunteers and others to “like” the page so they also can be kept up-to-date on activities!

Watch for updated applications for National Ag in the Classroom Conference Scholarships!

Watch the www.agfoundation.org website (under What we support- Scholarships) for the 2014 White-Reinhardt Scholarships to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. Two Scholarship opportunities are now available, one for Educators and one for Volunteer Educators. This Scholarship program is to provide travel expense funds to attend the national conference and then use the information gained to expand their outreach to students regarding food, fiber and fuel.

The White-Reinhardt Fund for Education is a special project of the Foundation in cooperation with the AFB Women’s Leadership Committee. It was established to honor two former chairs of that committee, Berta White and Linda Reinhardt, who were leaders in the national effort to improve agricultural literacy.

It is important to review the application guidelines before you apply.

- Guidelines for Educator Scholarships
- Guidelines for Volunteer Educator Scholarships

Each application once submitted will be sent to your State Farm Bureau Agricultural Literacy Coordinator for approval. Your State Coordinator will also be required to fill out a recommendation form which will need to be submitted to foundation@fb.org in order for you to qualify. **Applicants for this round will be notified in January of their application status.**

The August Checklist for a county:

___ Who is the Essay Contest Coordinator?

___ Who is the Ag in the Classroom Coordinator?

___ Who is the Soybean Science Kit Coordinator?

___ Who is attending one of the Fall AITC Meetings? I encourage someone from each county to attend at least one of the meetings!

___ If the county has a Soybean Science Kit, is someone attending one of the two training dates? It doesn't have to be the coordinator, but can be someone that also uses (or could use) the kit!

___ Has the county discussed WFB Foundation Silent Auction items?

___ Has the county discussed the 40 by 40 campaign? We encourage individual contributions from members but also welcome the additional support from a county!

___ Has the county sent in their County AITC Report?

___ Has the Soybean Science Kit Coordinator sent in the annual report?

Please contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5719 for information, to provide answers to these questions, or for other assistance!

My American Farm Kiosk Request Form

Return form to Darlene Arneson (darneson@wfbf.com)
or Darlene Arneson, WFBF, PO Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705

Contact's Name

Cell Phone

Home Phone

Address

Event you are requesting the kiosk for:

Location/address of the actual event:

Date of actual event:

When the kiosk needs to be delivered:

When the kiosk can be moved transferred to the next location:

Things to consider:

- **Do you have a vehicle that can move it?**
- **Will the kiosk be inside or protected from the wind, rain and elements?**
- **Do you have someone who will be with the kiosk during usage?**
- **Is there a power source at the venue?**

Details:

Scheduling

Complete the form and contact Darlene Arneson for reserving the kiosk. Please consider a buffer before and after your event for getting the kiosk there and back! If possible, we may ask you to store the kiosk until it goes to the next event.

Transporting the kiosk

The kiosk is a two-person loading/unloading item! It also requires a van with stow-n-go or no seats, a truck that has an enclosure, or a cargo van. In the wintertime or extreme heat in the summer time, it shouldn't be left out in a vehicle as the computer and monitor are fragile. I really do not want it transported in an open pick-up truck if possible! In my van (Dodge Caravan), I put the base in the center section (with seats down) and put the monitor section in the far back with the back seat and a blanket or something to support it. **The key is not breaking that monitor** and trying to keep it upright if possible!

Dimensions

Assembled:	26" deep	68" tall	44" wide
Unassembled:			
The base is	26" deep	30" tall	44" wide
The upper portion is	38" tall 28" wide	8" thick	

There is a 56" post that holds the sign



Where to find volunteers for a County AITC Committee

1. Review your county Farm Bureau membership lists
 - a. Sort by township and highlight names from each school district
 - b. Do you recognize members that are teachers? Have youth in school? Are active in other groups that promote agricultural education activities?
 - c. Ask your county Farm Bureau board members to provide 1-2 names from areas they represent or that they have signed up for membership
2. Submit articles in your county newsletter
 - a. Explain what AITC is and what your county is doing (or plans to do)
 - b. Ask for volunteers and provide a contact person for them (your county AITC coordinator)
 - c. Find out if members already are working with schools or hosting farm tours
 - d. Ask if any of the members are teachers, retired teachers, 4-H leaders...
3. Contact agriculture education instructors from your county
 - a. Find the listing at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/ag/pdf/ageddirectory.pdf>
 - b. Agriculture education and FFA chapters may have active Food for America programs, students that would like to use agricultural literacy activities as their Education SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience Project), or with the PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support) projects.
 - c. Contact local FFA Alumni affiliates- many members have an interest in ag literacy!
4. Involve teachers on your committee- they can provide information on their needs, how to contact schools, and other information on distributing materials
 - a. You can find school directories on the DPI website
 - b. Public schools- Elementary, middle and high school (any subject)
 - c. 4th grade (because we study Wisconsin in that grade)
 - d. Private schools
 - e. Agriculture education instructors
 - f. Home school parents or home school groups that meet in your area
5. Contact county extension and 4-H programs
 - a. Is there an after-school program in your county?
 - b. Do any 4-H clubs want to work with agricultural literacy programs?
 - c. Is there a county 4-H leaders group that might be interested in joint projects?
6. What other groups are in your county that might be good partners?
 - a. Dairy promotion and commodity groups
 - b. Chamber of Commerce programs
 - c. Other farm organizations and groups
 - d. Check your phone books, do Internet searches, and other sources!
 - e. Submit articles to local papers, commodity newsletters and email groups to contacts in various groups and organizations.