

# The Teacher Newsletter Oregon



Fall 2002

Agriculture In The

Classroom Foundation

This newsletter is sponsored by the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and the Oregon Beef Council to help students and teachers understand the important role of agriculture in Oregon and the United States. For more information, contact the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Program Director, Tami Kerr, at Oregon State University, (541) 737-8629, Tami.Kerr@orst.edu, or visit our web site at <http://AITC.orst.edu>.

## New School Year Calendars

Our new school year calendars featuring student artwork are now available to teachers at no charge. Each month has student artwork and daily agricultural facts. The following individuals are featured in our calendar:

**Calendar Cover** ~ Erin C. ~ Grade 5, Ashbrook Independent, Corvallis ~ Teacher: Valarie Johns.

**September 2002** ~ Carrisa H. ~ Grade 3, Stayton Christian, Stayton ~ Teacher: Violet Whittaker.

**October 2002** ~ Tyler W. ~ Grade 5, Ashbrook Independent, Corvallis ~ Teacher: Valarie Johns.

**November 2002** ~ Cherice M. ~ Grade 4, Rivergate SDA, Gladstone ~ Teacher: Mrs. Sandi Mathis.

**December 2002** ~ Andrew P. ~ Grade 5, Willamette Christian, Turner ~ Teacher: Violet Whittaker.

**January 2003** ~ David R. ~ Grade 3, Home School, Sherwood ~ Teacher: Mrs. Reid.

**February 2003** ~ Kelsey H. ~ Grade 4, Brush College, Salem ~ Teacher: Mr. White.

**March 2003** ~ Grant S. ~ Grade 3, East School, Tillamook ~ Teacher: Mrs. Mary Pat Eckley.

**April 2003** ~ Anthony G. ~ Grade 5, Indian Hills Elementary, Aloha ~ Teacher: Mrs. Spitzer.

**May 2003** ~ Nicholas W. ~ Grade 5, Willamette Christian, Turner ~ Teacher: Violet Whittaker.

**June 2003** ~ Jordan P. ~ Grade 3, Stayton Christian, Stayton ~ Teacher: Violet Whittaker.

**July 2003** ~ Carmen C. ~ Grade 3, Naas Elementary, Boring ~ Teacher: Mrs. Washtok.

**August 2003** ~ Kodria H. ~ Grade 4, Witness Tree Academy Home School, Pilot Rock ~ Teacher: Mrs. Janet Haddock.



## National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, Washington, D.C.



The Oregon Farm Bureau's (OFB) Women's Advisory Council sponsored two teachers to attend the National AITC Conference in Washington, D.C. this past June. John Grow teaches 5th grade at Tiller Elementary in Douglas County and Bruce Cardin teaches 6th grade at East School in Tillamook County. The National Conference had several workshops for teachers, including Agriculture and the Global Market, Developing Science Savvy: Food Fuels the Discovery, and more. Pictured l-r are John Grow, Tami Kerr, and Bruce Cardin, photo by Helen Bushue, OFB.



# Honey

## Educator's Overview: Honey

Honey is the only food consumed by humans that is produced by insects.

Honey is the sweet, viscous fluid produced by honey bees from the nectar of flowers. Worker honey bees transform the floral nectar that they gather into honey by adding enzymes to the nectar and reducing the moisture. The honey is stored in the wax cells of the hive (honeycomb).

Honey is a rich source of carbohydrates - mainly fructose (about 38.2 percent) and glucose (31.0 percent). The remaining carbohydrates include maltose, sucrose, and other complex carbohydrates. On average, honey is about 17.1 percent water. Honey is sweeter than table sugar.

In addition, honey contains small amounts of a wide array of vitamins, minerals and amino acids as well as several compounds which function as antioxidants - compounds that delay damage to cells or tissues in our bodies.

Throughout history, honey has been enjoyed for its sweetness as well as its healing properties.

Honey is an entirely natural product. It contains neither additives nor preservatives.

The color and flavor of honeys differ, depending on the nectar source (the blossoms) visited by the honey bees. The color ranges from nearly colorless to dark brown, and the flavor varies from mild to bold. As a general rule, lighter-colored honeys are milder, and darker-colored honeys are bolder.

Honey also comes in a variety of forms including liquid, whipped and comb honey. Liquid honey, which is free of visible crystals, is extracted from the comb in the hive by centrifugal force, gravity or straining. Whipped honey is finely crystallized honey. Honey crystallized more or less rapidly depending on the ration of fructose and glucose in the honey. While most honey will crystallize in time, the crystallization of whipped honey is controlled so that, at room temperature, it can spread like butter. In many countries, whipped honey is the preferred form of honey. Comb honey is honey contained in the cells of the honey bees' wax comb in which it was produced.

**Note - Various types of honey are shown in "The Honey Files: A Bee's Life" videotape. The "Honey Files: A Bee's Life" curriculum and video for grades 4-6 are available from the AITC Resource Library at no charge. Contact our office if you would like a copy.**



# ***NEW Resources & Information***

Contact Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) for more information or to reserve the following materials, (541) 737-8629, Tami.Kerr@orst.edu, or view our free-loan resource library online at <http://aitc.orst.edu>

## **Educational Units:**

### **Mint Kit**

#### **Grades K-6 (Video, Candy Recipe, Mint Oil)**

This kit includes a recipe to make no-bake mint candy, peppermint oil, an 11-minute video on mint production, "From Field to Flavor" and overheads. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**

### **Pumpkin Circle**

#### **Kids' Pumpkin Projects**



#### **Grades K-5 (Books & Poster)**

The "Pumpkin Circle" shows the amazing cycle of a backyard pumpkin patch with colorful photos. The "Pumpkin Circle" was listed as the 1999 Top Ten Science Books for Youth Booklist, and 1999

Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children, Children's Book Council. Also included is a large color poster that shows the pumpkin from seed to pumpkin. The "Kids' Pumpkin Projects" 98-page book is filled with indoor and outdoor pumpkin adventures, activities and crafts. You will do everything from plant seeds to bake pumpkin pies. **Free loan from Oregon AITC, provided by the Corvallis Kiwanis Foundation.**

### **Christmas Tree Materials**

#### **Grades K-6 (Videos & Activities)**

Your students will enjoy our two videos about Christmas trees. "The Christmas Tree Story" and "The Holiday Spirit" are great videos that show the trees from seedlings to recycling. Learn more about one of Oregon's top agricultural commodities. Did you know that Oregon was #1 in the United States for the production of Christmas trees? Visit the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association's web site at <http://nwtrees.com> and check the Kid's Corner! for activities. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**

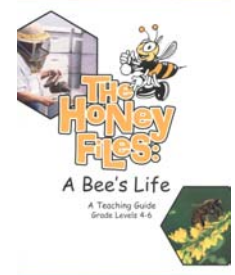
### **"The Honey Files: A Bee's Life"**

#### **Grades 4-6 (Video & Educational Guide)**

This 20-minute video and 96-page teacher's guide will have you and your students buzzing!

These fun, new educational materials provide information, classroom activities and worksheets about bees, honey and pollination.

**Free from Oregon AITC, provided by the National Honey Board.**



### **Free Screen Savers**

Enjoy our new AITC screen savers. They work for both Windows and Macintosh computers. Bring the beautiful agricultural images into your classroom....free! Contact our office for your complimentary screen saver or download it directly from the National AITC Web site at <http://www.agclassroom.org>.

## Essay Contest for Grades 6-8

### **Boundless Science for Bountiful Agriculture.**

Students in grades 6-8 may submit essays of no more than 500 words by **November 1, 2002**.

The contest is conducted by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST).

The seven topics range from Alternative Fuel Research: "Bioenergy Powering the Future" to Food Science and Nutrition: "Using Science to Create a Safe and Healthy Food Supply".

Winners will be recognized at school, Congressional district, state, and national levels.

The national winner, their parents and teacher will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for National Agriculture Week in March. Please visit [www.cast-science.org](http://www.cast-science.org) for more information.

## Youth Garden Grants

The National Gardening Association awards 400 Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered outdoor garden programs in the United States. Each grant consists of an assortment of quality seeds, tools, garden products, and educational resources valued at more than \$750.

**Deadline is November 1, 2002.** For more information, visit

[www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp](http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp).

**Yes!** I would like to receive more information about:

- Reviewing Curriculum Materials and Activities
- Becoming an Ambassador
- Teacher-Training Workshops
- Add me to the Newsletter Mailing List

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mail to:**

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