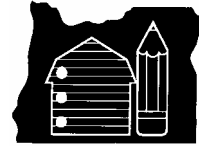


The Teacher Newsletter Oregon



Fall 2003

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 Agriculture in the Classroom at Oregon State University, visit our Web site at <http://AITC.oregonstate.edu> or call (541) 737-8629.

New School Year Calendar

Students in 25 counties submitted 1,700 pictures for our calendar contest. We printed 7,500 calendars and every classroom that entered the contest will receive a calendar. Thirteen pictures were selected for the calendar and 35 honorable mention pictures will be recognized. They will all be on display at the Oregon Department of Agriculture during the next year. All of these pictures are posted on our Web site at <http://AITC.oregonstate.edu>; there is a link on the home page to the new calendar artwork.

All student in grades K-6 are eligible to enter artwork about Oregon Agriculture for our calendar contest. **Every student that submits artwork will receive a personalized certificate.** Artwork is due **May 31, 2004**. More information is posted on our Web site. Please include a class roster and have your students create their masterpieces horizontally. (The pictures in the calendar are much larger if they are horizontal.) If you have any questions, please call our office at 541-737-8629.



The students pictured above are twelve of the thirteen artists featured in the current school year calendar. A reception was held during the Oregon State Fair to recognize the students and their teachers that were selected for the calendar. Seven teachers attended the reception. Each calendar page was on display in the Jackman-Long building and in the FFA activity area during the State Fair.

Excellence Grant

Our program received a \$5,000 Excellence Grant this summer at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The grant will allow us to align our materials to the Oregon Benchmark Standards and show how agriculture can be used at each grade level to help you meet the standards.

How Can I Use the AITC Free-Loan Resource Materials?

All of the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) materials are available to Oregon teachers at no cost, except for a return mailing of books and videos. Media mail will keep your costs low. The only requirements are to return the resources in three weeks and fill out a short participation form with the number of students, their grade level, and if the materials were useful to your teaching. All student information is confidential.

You can request materials or kits for use later in the school year. Let me know what materials are needed, what grade level you teach, and a specific date that you need them by. Our kits and videos are listed on our Web site and a list of books will be posted soon. If you have suggestions of materials that would be useful for your students, please let us know. We are always looking for new resources and your comments and suggestions will help to shape the focus and direction of our program.

Middle School Classrooms Needed for IPM Pilot Project

Oregon AITC is going to be working with two other states to pilot test a new Web based project involving Integrated Pest Management (IPM). We will need 5-10 classes to help with this project next spring. If you are interested, please contact our office at 541-737-8629. More information will be available soon.

Kids Gardening Photo Contest

Entries are due by October 27, 2003. There are two age categories for students, K-5 and 6-12. There is also an adult contest for school, home and community gardens. For more information, check our Web site and visit *What's New*. They want photos of those things in the garden or habitat that interest students most. Choose a subject or an event that makes them think "Wow!" or "Cool!" or "That's Neat!" It might be a close up of a preying mantis about to pounce, or a field of sunflowers.

2004 Youth Gardening Grants

Applications are due by November 1. For more information visit our Web site and check *What's New*.

New NSTA Awards

Two new award programs for science educators are being offered through the National Science Teachers Association. Deadline for all of NSTA's 2004 awards is **October 15, 2003**. Applications and information can be found at www.nsta.org/awardscomp.

Delta Education, LLC, is sponsoring the Delta Education Awards for Excellence in Inquiry-Based Science Teaching. Three teachers—one from each of three grade categories, preK-5; 6-8; and 9-12—will be recognized for their successful use of inquiry-based science to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. The winning teachers will each receive a \$1,500 cash award and \$1,500 to attend the NSTA National Convention.

Vernier Software and Technology is sponsoring the Vernier Technology Awards. Seven science educators—one in grades K-5; two in grades 6-8; three in grades 9-12; and one at the college level—will be recognized for their innovative use of data collection technology using a computer, graphing calculator, or handheld in the science classroom. Each award-winning teacher will receive a \$1,000 cash award, \$1,000 in Vernier equipment, and \$1,000 to attend the NSTA National Convention.

To Learn about Free Resources... visit <http://AITC.oregonstate.edu> and click on *Teacher Resources*, then *Free-Loan Library*. Materials are available in five topic areas and listed by grade level for your convenience.



Recommended Resources

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

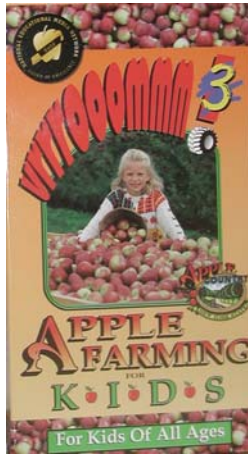
Educational Units: Fall Activities

Apple Kits

Grades K-3, 4-6

These kits include the Apple Farming for Kids video, several apple activities and lessons for K-3 and 4-6 students. Many activities lend themselves to cooperative learning. The video is a live action adventure exploring modern apple production.

From pollination to processing, join Farmer Bill as he shares the chronology of how apples are grown and make their way to your local market. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.** Specify grades for kit.



Christmas Tree Materials

Grades K-6 (Videos & Activities)

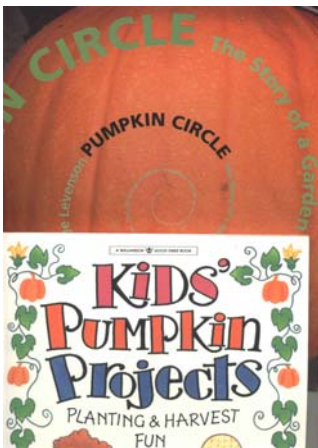
Your students will enjoy our two videos about Christmas trees. "The Christmas Tree Story" and "The Holiday Spirit" are great videos that show the trees from seedlings to recycling. Learn more about one of Oregon's top agricultural commodities. Visit the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association's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



Pumpkin Kit

Pumpkin Circle and Kids' Pumpkin

Projects Grades K-3 (Books & Lessons)



The "Pumpkin Circle" shows the amazing cycle of a backyard pumpkin patch with colorful photos. The "Pumpkin Circle" was listed as one of the 1999 Top Ten Science Books for Youth Booklist, and one of the 1999 Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children, Children's Book Council. The "Kids' Pumpkin Projects," 98-page book, is

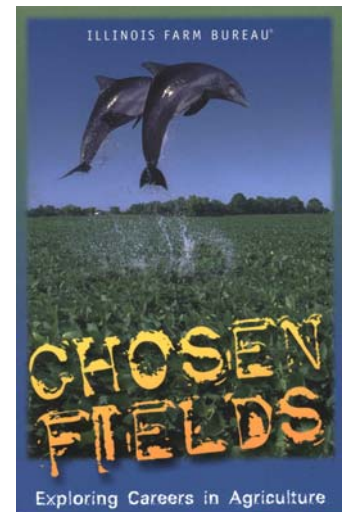
filled with indoor and outdoor pumpkin adventures, activities and crafts. You will do everything from plant seeds to bake pumpkin pies. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**

Chosen Fields

Exploring Careers in Agriculture

Grades 4-10 (Video & CD)

This video helps students get a taste of careers in agriculture. It highlights careers in agricultural engineering, animal behavior, animal nutrition, and landscape design. It also includes a CD-Rom with 15 classroom lessons to explore careers in agriculture. **Free loan from Oregon AITC** or order for \$15 from Illinois AITC at (309) 557-3334.



Yes! Please add my name to the Agriculture in the Classroom mailing list.

Teachers will receive our newsletter, school year calendar, workshop information, and other educational resources for our program.

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to:

Agriculture in the Classroom

Oregon State University

105 Ballard Extension Hall

Corvallis, OR 97331