

The Teacher Newsletter Oregon



Spring 2003

Agriculture In The Classroom Foundation

This newsletter is sponsored by the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and the Oregon Farm Bureau's Women's Advisory 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, (541) 737-8629, or visit our Web site at <http://AITC.oregonstate.edu>.

Enter Your K-6 Students Artwork

Now! 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, 2003**. More information is provided in this newsletter or you can visit our Web site to view the current calendar artwork or download more entry forms. We printed 5,000 calendars for the 2002-2003 school year and hope to print more for the next school year. The calendar highlights student artwork with the student's first name, grade level, school, community, and teacher's name, in addition to daily facts about Oregon agriculture from Malheur to Tillamook County.

A committee will select thirteen pictures for the 2003-2004 school year calendar this summer. A reception will be held late this summer to honor the students and their teachers whose artwork is featured in the calendar. The calendar will run from September 2003 through August 2004.

Lots of color and creativity is encouraged for the contest. We want pictures that showcase the diversity of Oregon agriculture from seafood and blueberries to grass seed, mint, potatoes, onions, dairy products, pears, hazelnuts, Christmas trees, wheat, sheep, watermelons, alfalfa, and cattle and calves. For a complete list of Oregon commodities, visit our Web site. Please submit artwork in a horizontal position. If you have any questions, please call our office at 541-737-8629.

Certificate for Student Artwork



Oregon Ag Fest April 26-27

Visit Ag Fest at the State Fairgrounds in Salem. Children 12 and under are FREE. Ag Country is a creative agricultural community that gives kids hands-on experiences such as watching chicks hatch and digging for potatoes. Visit the Teacher Resource Area with our display. For more information, view *What's New* on our Web site.

Earn 3 Grad Credits at the Summer Ag Institute (SAI)

Plan to attend the session at Oregon State University in Corvallis June 22-27 or the session at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande July 20-25. For more information about the Oregon Agriculture Education Foundation's program, visit our Web site and click on *Teacher Workshops*. The cost is only \$200 for the week and includes meals, lodging, tuition, and tours. Teachers will receive new curriculum and resource materials for their classrooms.

Celebrate Earth Day at the Oregon Garden - April 19

Join us on Saturday, April 19, at the Oregon Garden in Silverton to participate in Earth Day activities. Admission will be FREE to the public. Everyone that attends has the opportunity to make their own "Dirt Baby" using Oregon grass seed. We will be featuring Oregon grass seed and why grass is good for our environment. Did you know that Oregon is a world leader in the production of cool season grasses such as perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, annual ryegrass, orchardgrass, and Kentucky bluegrass? Oregon grass seed is shipped to every state in the United States and to over 60 countries around the world. The fact that grass has survived from the first days of time is a tribute to its place and function in the environment. Oregon grass seed is used for pastures, lawns, parks, golf courses, football and soccer fields, and soil erosion control. Roots filter water as it passes through, cleaning it before reaching our underground reservoirs.

To celebrate Earth Day in your classroom, AITC will provide a video, nylons, grass seed, and additional information so you can grow your own "Dirt Baby."

Dirt Babies

Materials Needed:

- Knee-high nylon (not reinforced toe)
- Oregon grass seed
- Potting soil
- Baby food jar

Activity Outline:

1. Watch the Oregon Grass Seed video and discuss information about the grass seed industry.
2. Show the students a Dirt Baby that you have already made. (Use the directions below to make your own.) Tell the students that the hair of the Dirt Baby is grass.
3. Have the students make their own Dirt Baby. Using a knee-high nylon, place one teaspoon of grass seed in the toe of nylon where you want the grass to grow. The toe of the nylon will be the head of the Dirt Baby and the grass will look like hair when it grows.
4. Pack soil on top of the seed. Make sure there is enough soil so the quantity of the soil is slightly bigger than the opening of the baby food jar.
5. Tie a knot in the nylon under the ball of soil. This will make the soil a round ball, which is now the head of the Dirt Baby.
6. Draw a face on the Dirt Baby.
7. Place the top of the nylon (which is the head of the Dirt Baby) on a baby food jar filled with water.
8. The nylon will absorb the water and saturate the head of the Dirt Baby which is above the mouth of the jar. In 10-15 days the grass seed will germinate through the nylon.
9. The Dirt Baby should be watered as needed. You can cut the "hair" and style as desired.

To Learn about Natural History Discovery Days at Oregon State University, visit our Web site at <http://AITC.oregonstate.edu> and click on *What's New*.



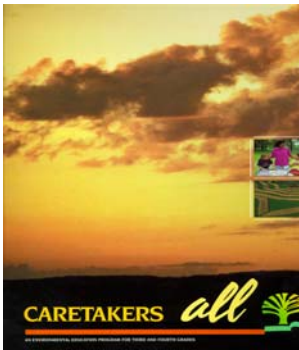
NEW Resources & Information

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: Focus on the Environment

Caretakers All Grades 3-5 (Kit)

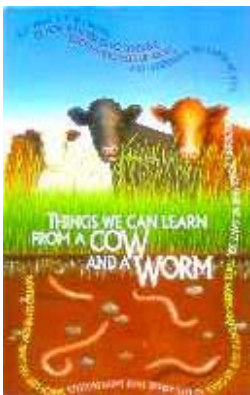
This environmental study print kit includes six hands-on lessons about the care of animals, water, land,



plants, resources and the community through a series of full-color photos and engaging activities. The teaching kit includes six 22" x 14" photographic study prints with background information on the reverse side, 12 reproducible masters of student activities, and a

comprehensive 31 page teacher's guide. **Free loan from Oregon AITC or available free from the Oregon Beef Council.** Contact Schelli at (503) 274-BEEF for an order form and information on other resource materials.

Things We Can Learn From a Cow and a Worm Grades 3-5 (Poster Kit)



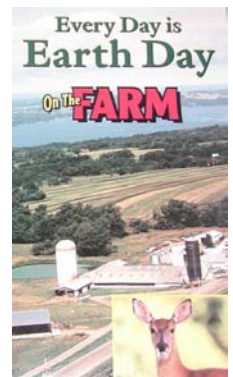
This artistic 22" by 34" poster includes teacher information and student activities that help students understand how cows above the ground and worms below ground benefit our environment. The activities discuss conservation, the food web, and recycle concepts. This is a great "teacher and student friendly" packet. **Free loan from**

Oregon AITC or available free from the Oregon Beef Council. Contact Schelli at (503) 274-BEEF for an order form and information on other resource materials.

Every Day is Earth Day on the Farm Grades 3-6 (Video)

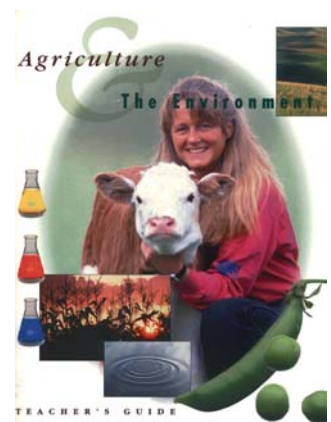
Every Day is Earth Day celebrates the stewardship of the earth practiced on a well-run farm. In this video, the Fesko family demonstrates care for nature as they work to maximize their production.

Contemporary environmental practices for crop rotation and pest management are shown in detail, with emphasis on natural methods. Water's critical role in the ecological life cycle is presented. A segment on wildlife management demonstrates how farming and wildlife can co-exist in harmony. VHS 25 minutes. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**



Agriculture & The Environment Grades 6-9 (Teachers Guide - Booklet)

This guidebook provides background information that teachers can use to incorporate topics related to agriculture and the environment into the curriculum for grades 6-9. Classroom activities are provided to bring the information alive for students. The five chapters focus on food safety, pesticides and integrated pest management, water quality, wetlands, and endangered species. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**



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:

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