

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom

Spring 2009

A Resource & Newsletter for Oregon Educators



**Hands-on
Activity**

*The Story of Milk/ La
Historia de la Leche*

*Spanish/English Lesson
from our web site.*

Dates to Remember

Ag Fest - April 25-26, Salem,
State Fairgrounds

**AITC Art Calendar Contest
Deadline - May 15, 2009**

April is National Gardening
Month

Earth Day - April 22

Nat'l Arbor Day - April 25

About AITC

This newsletter is produced by Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education organization that promotes a greater understanding of Oregon's agriculture and natural resources.



Songs & Story Kick-Off Literacy Project

Music and a story kicked off the second annual *AITC Literacy Project*, March 16, at Hazel Green Elementary School in Salem.

The program included live music by Mike Martin, and Reta and Caleb Thomas as well as a lively reading of *Apples to Oregon* by veteran teacher Carol Young (right). To help students capture the spirit of the book, the performers dressed as pioneers.



Following the program students made a "growing bracelet" (left). The Literacy Project is designed to help improve both the reading literacy and agricultural literacy of Oregon's elementary students. To learn how to bring this program to your school or to volunteer visit the AITC web site.

2009 FFA Youth Literacy Winners

FFA chapters from big cities and small towns were the winners of AITC's 2009 FFA Youth Literacy Awards!



The first place winner was the North Clackamas FFA Chapter, second place went to Henley FFA and third place to Imbler FFA. The winners were recognized at the 2009 FFA State Convention in LaGrande.

The award encourages agriculture literacy programs in Oregon's high school FFA chapters. Cash prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 were awarded to the top three chapters to continue the development and expansion of FFA chapter's local agriculture literacy efforts.

Get a View ... of U.S. Agriculture

Three free screen savers highlighting the beauty and diversity of U.S. agriculture are available from the National AITC web site – <http://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/screensavers.htm>.



Every Day is Earth Day on a Farm:



Activity Ideas to Celebrate

Earth Day is an excellent time to remind students and ourselves how precious our earth is and how we are all connected to the environment ... and how agriculture is the source of our food, fiber and shelter.

Some ideas for Earth Day.

- * Plant a tree or beautify around your school.
- * Eat locally, think globally. Support local agriculture by eating foods grown close to home.
- * Start a classroom compost/worm bin.
- * Enter your students in the AITC Calendar Contest!
- * Try the *Source Relay* - AITC web site/Hands-on Activities to learn about the "one" source.
- * Study life cycles with "Connect the Dots" Kit - see *Featured Resources*.

Online Field Trip Tip: Really Cool Science - Visit the Chicago Museum of Science & Industry

See chickens hatching, learn how leaves get their colors, and dozens of other science activities with an online field trip to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.

The museum's web site has an *Online Science* section that offers free amazing science videos and hands-on activities that will enrich any classroom. The URL is <http://www.msichicago.org/online-science/>.

This spring's featured lesson is *See the Colors in Leaves*. Using chromatography to separate the pigments in leaves, students can literally see what leaves are made of. The experiment can be viewed in clear, step-by-step color photos and the on-line lessons are wrapped up with a clear description called *What Happened*. It's a great teaching tool. You can also print out the directions to reproduce these easy activities in your classroom. The materials for most of the science lessons are low cost and easy to find.

Other activities on this site include: **thermal energy while making porridge, inertia and the egg drop, gravitational potential energy of an egg bungee, and making a sound like a turkey.** This site is a winner, check it out!



Ag Fest - April 25-26: Touch, Taste & Experience Life on a Farm

Plant a seedling, ride a pony, watch chicks hatch, pet a rabbit, dig for potatoes and much more at Ag Fest, April 25-26. Spread the word and join in this activity-filled festival where kids - and grown ups - can touch, taste and experience life on the farm. The event is held at the State Fairgrounds in Salem. Cost, \$7.50 for adults, children 12 and under are free. Visit the AITC booth in Columbia Hall and check out our teacher resources first hand.



Calendar Contest: Deadline May 15



The AITC Calendar Contest is a great classroom activity and a fun and easy way to add art to your classroom.

The theme for the contest is Oregon agriculture. Students in grades K-6 are eligible to enter their original artwork. The deadline for the contest is May 15, 2009. Complete instructions can be found on the AITC web site.

Official Entry Form AITC Student Calendar Contest

Student Name: _____

Description of picture: _____

Grade currently in: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

School Name: _____

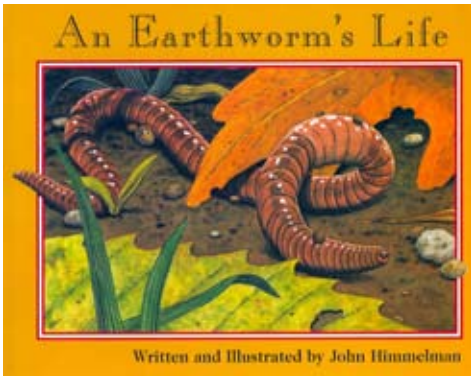
School Address: _____

City: _____ OR Zip: _____

School Phone: () _____

By submitting your entry, you agree to the conditions of the contest.

From the AITC Library: Pick of the Season



An Earthworm's Life

Grades K-2 (Book)

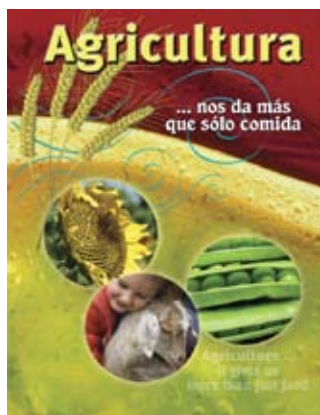
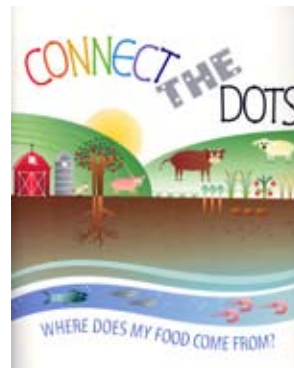
This book takes kids through the life cycle of earthworms, from birth in the spring to hibernation in the winter, and then to parenthood the following spring.

Activity: Build a Worm Condo and watch these fascinating creatures close up! Directions available on AITC's web site under Teacher Resources/ Hands-on Activities.

NEW Connecting the Dots: Where Does My Food Come From?

Grades 2-4 (Kit - DVD, activity sheets, teacher's guide)

This cross-curricular kit includes three lesson plans that align with national standards. Lessons include: *Tracing Agriculture in My Daily Life*; *Linking the Sun to my Plate*; and *Understanding the Families Behind My Food*. Order a free kit for your classroom by contacting the Oregon Beef Council at 503-274-2333, or check out a kit from AITC.



Agricultura: It Gives Us More Than Just Food

Grades K-5 (Bilingual Lesson Guide)

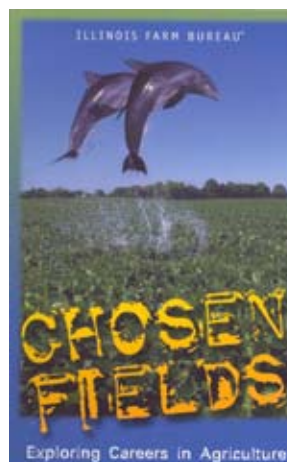
24-hands-on English/Spanish lessons are available to download free from the AITC web site's *Teacher Resource* section. The agriculture-related activities can be used to meet national standards in language arts, math, science, reading, social studies and visual arts. The lesson guide was developed by the Oklahoma and New Mexico Ag in the Classroom programs.

Activity: A sample lesson - *The Story of Milk* - is in the newsletter insert in Spanish; English online.

Chosen Fields: Exploring Careers in Agriculture

Grades 4-10 (Video & CD Instructional Unit)

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.



All these resources & more are available to check out online from AITC's Free Resource Library. <http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/resources/library.htm>

Literacy Project Lessons Going Beyond Apples to Oregon

In an effort to make this year's AITC Literacy Project more robust, a series of related hands-on lessons have been posted on the AITC web site.



The lessons were designed to tie *Apples to Oregon*, the Literacy Project's featured book, to lessons about Oregon history and agriculture in general.

The hands-on lessons are for grades K-5 and cover topics like Oregon's history, the state flag and facts; as well as songs about apples, apple science lessons and even some apple math.

You can download these free materials by going to the AITC web site's Literacy Lessons link - http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/whats/lit_lessons.htm.

Kristi Miller: Volunteer Extraordinaire'



This spring, nearly 1,500 students will have been enchanted by Kristi Miller's reading of *Apples to Oregon*, and her stories of living on a grass seed farm.

Miller, a retired teacher, became involved with AITC's Literacy Project

through her volunteer work with Oregon Women for Agriculture. Miller a passionate reader, is also the treasurer for the Oregon Reading Association.

"Kristi is a dynamic force in the classroom. Watching her teach you realize what it means to be a master teacher," says Tami Kerr, AITC Director. "We sincerely appreciate her dedication to the project and Oregon's young readers." Miller is the single most active volunteer the AITC Literacy Project has had both this year and last.

Thank you Kristi!



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SAI - Earn Graduate Credits

Earn three graduate credits from Oregon State University at the Summer Ag Institute (SAI). The week-long program is for K-12 teachers on how agriculture can be used to enhance achievement for Education Reform Standards.

Session 1: June 21-26; Corvallis, OSU campus

Session 2: July 12-17; LaGrande, EOU campus

Cost \$500 - space is limited. Learn more at <http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/workshop/index.htm>.



2008 SAI participant from Oak Grove Elementary School in North Albany, Kasey Tegner with her class. She developed lesson plans using hydroponic kits (center) she built at SAI.



Thank You!

AITC expresses its sincere thanks to the CHS FOUNDATION whose financial support paid for the development, printing and mailing of this newsletter.



Helping children grow in their knowledge of agriculture.

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