

The Teacher Newsletter Oregon



Winter 2003

Agriculture In The

Classroom Foundation

This newsletter is sponsored by the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and the Multnomah County Farm Bureau 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>.

Apply for National AITC Teaching

Award The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Consortium are pleased to announce the ***Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture: A National Awards Program*** for fiscal year 2002. The program seeks to honor a select group of excellent teachers who emphasize agricultural concepts across the various areas of study.

If you have been teaching agricultural lessons about animals, plants, food and nutrition, or conservation and natural resources or doing "ag-tivities" in your classroom, you need to apply! The application is very simple and consists of three questions asking you to describe what you have done in your classroom, identify your teaching methods you used, and explain how these activities helped students better understand American agriculture's impact on personal lives, our National heritage, the environment, National security and the economy.

Designed to focus national attention on the critical role of teaching, the program will honor five teachers for their outstanding contribution to education about American agriculture. Recipients of these distinguished awards will receive an honorarium of \$500 and up to \$1,500 toward travel to the 2003 National Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Conference. A panel of experts familiar with education, agriculture, and AITC will select awardees. Download the application from the

www.agclassroom.org Web site (click on Teacher Resources and then Outstanding Teacher Award) or contact us at 541-737-8629 and a copy will be sent to you. **Send your completed application to Oregon AITC by February 20, 2003.** A committee will select the entry from Oregon and send the application and additional letters to USDA for consideration. We look forward to receiving your applications.

Wilbur-Ellis Grant Awarded for AITC Curriculum Project

Wilbur-Ellis Company recently awarded Oregon AITC a \$10,000 grant. The funds will be used to print our new Oregon curriculum for grades 4-5. The 28 new lessons focus on Oregon's natural resources and agricultural commodities. The curriculum was developed in partnership with Extension 4-H. Each lesson clearly lists the content standards and benchmarks that are met. To receive the free curriculum, teachers will be required to attend a workshop. Workshops will soon be scheduled throughout the state. Call if you are interested.



Pictured l-r: Roger Haffner, Wilbur-Ellis Company; Tami Kerr, Oregon AITC; and Ken Manning, Wilbur-Ellis Company.

National Ag Week

The new National Ag Week posters will be available by the end of January. **Contact us for a free poster for your classroom.** The posters have five agricultural photographs. One suggestion to celebrate the week is to submit artwork from your K-6 students on their idea of Oregon agriculture for our calendar contest. What do your students think of when they hear the words "Oregon agriculture?" My definition combines what I call the "6 F's of Agriculture" which are "Farming, Food, Fiber, Fishing, Flowers, and Forestry." Every student that submits artwork will receive a personalized certificate. For rules of the contest visit our Web site at <http://AITC.oregonstate.edu>. Your students' artwork could be featured in our next school year calendar. Contact us for additional activities to celebrate National Ag Week.

How to Use AITC's Free-Loan Materials

For a complete list of our free-loan materials, visit our Web site and click on Teacher Resources, then Free-Loan Library. Materials are available in five topic areas and listed by grade level for your convenience. We do not charge for the use of our materials, the only cost you would have is a return mailing of books and videos. Our only requirement is to know how many students use the materials and what grade level they are. That information is confidential, but necessary for fund raising. When you make your request, let me know what grade level you are teaching and when you need the material. We have recently added a list of kits and books on our Web site, and are always looking for new materials that can supplement your classroom activities. If you have suggestions of books or materials that would be useful for your students, please let us know. Your comments and suggestions will help to shape the focus and direction of our program.

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

This is a wonderful opportunity to earn 3 graduate credits! Plan to attend the session at Oregon State University in Corvallis June 22-27 or the session at Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande July 20-15. The cost is only \$200 for the week and includes meals, lodging, and tuition. You will experience hands-on lectures, tours, and an overnight stay with a farm family. For more information about the Oregon Agriculture Education Foundation's program, visit our Web site and click on Teacher Workshops.

Ag Fest

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Ag Fest April 26-27 at the fairgrounds in Salem. Children 12 and under are free. Explore and experience the sights, sounds, tastes and delights of Oregon Agriculture. Fun and excitement for the entire family. For more information, view *What's New* on our Web site.

What's New With AITC - New Grants for Classrooms

Visit our Web site and click on *What's New* to learn more about the Healthy Sprout Awards, State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Award, and the Dutch Bulb Awards. We regularly add new information and opportunities for your classrooms to our Web site, so please check in.

New Science Web Site, science.gov

From science.gov, users can find over one thousand government information resources about science. These resources include technical reports, journal citations, Federal web sites, and fact sheets. The information is free, and no registration is required. Participating agencies include the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, and Interior; and the Environmental Protection Agency among others.



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 Nutrition

We have several excellent resources available to teach your students about nutrition and where their food comes from.

Felt Food Pyramid (Grades K-3)

Teach children to get the most nutritious bang for their bite. Separate food pieces can be placed in their correct food groups, cultivating an appreciation for foods that are most nourishing. This kit includes a 25" felt pyramid, six basic food groups with daily servings listed, 62 separate felt food pieces, and a lesson guide. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**

Thank a Farmer for Pizza (Grades K-3 Curriculum Guide and Student Activity Book)

A reproducible student activity book complete with entertaining games, mazes, puzzles and other learning pages is part of this packet. The 50-page curriculum guide uses a hands-on approach while integrating pizza and agriculture into all subject areas. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**

Food Doesn't Grow in the Supermarket (Grades 2-5 Educator's Guide and Video)

You will visit three different farms to learn where food really comes from and what it takes to produce it through the character of "The City Guy," an adult who thinks he knows where food comes from (the grocery store). Narrated by children, the video is interesting for even those who have experienced food production! **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**

Fit For a King (Grades 2-6 Kit and Video)

This video fairytale format is both entertaining and educational, communicates the variety of food, balanced diet, and moderation message about healthy eating for young people. This kit includes a video, leader guide, nine reproducible activity sheets, ten tips to healthy eating and physical activity and a food guide pyramid poster. Available **Free** from the **Oregon Beef Council**. Contact Schelli Blaha at 503-274-BEEF for your copy and more information on their educational resources.

Dig In! (Grades 3-4 Kit)

This 3rd and 4th grade unit uses the ancient Egyptian culture and its pyramids to teach fundamental lessons about the food guide pyramid, good nutrition and physical activity. At the same time students will learn basic skills in the areas of language arts, social studies, math/technology, science/health and fine arts. The kit contains a full-color poster, an audiocassette with music and lyrics for the Dig In! sing-a-long, teacher's guide, six black line masters, and a pre/post test. Available **Free** to Oregon teachers from the **Oregon Beef Council**. Contact Schelli Blaha at (503) 274-BEEF. One teaching tool per teacher.

Food - Discovering World Cultures Series (grades K-12 Book)

Food is essential for life. We need to eat to stay alive but food is also an important part of how we celebrate our culture. Learn why different foods are popular in different parts of the world due to climate, cooking methods, and religious practices. **Free loan from Oregon AITC.**

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

Teachers will receive our newsletter, workshop information, and other educational information about our program.

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to:

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