

# Agriculture in the Classroom

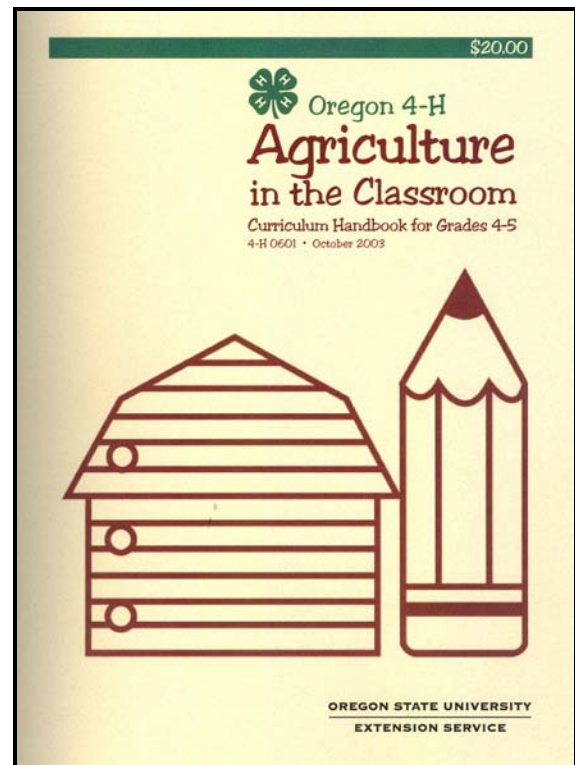
Newsletter for Teachers Winter 2004

This newsletter is sponsored by the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation 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.

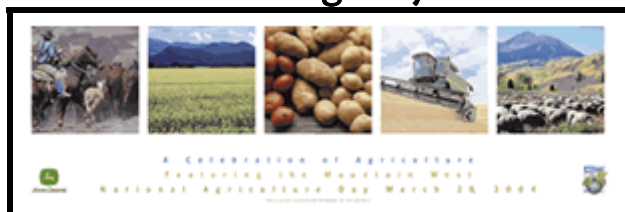
## New Curriculum is Available!

The new curriculum for grades 4-5 is ready to be used in your classroom. Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC), in partnership with Extension 4-H, developed 28 new lessons that focus on Oregon's agricultural commodities and natural resources. The plans are diverse and include agricultural topics such as agricultural careers, horticulture, beef, dairy, grass seed, berries, wheat, water, nutrition and the environment. The curriculum features different regions of Oregon. Each lesson clearly lists the content standards and benchmarks that are met.

**If you are interested in attending a 3 hour workshop to receive a FREE copy of the curriculum, contact our office to schedule a workshop in your county.** Certificates for PDU credits will be presented at the workshops. Wilbur-Ellis Company awarded us a grant to print 500 books.



## 2004 National Ag Day Poster



March 20 marks the first day of spring and National Ag Day. The National Ag Day posters are available and were mailed to all 810 teachers on our mailing list. Join this effort to promote American agriculture during National Agriculture Week, March 14-20, 2004. Contact our office for activities to use in your classroom.

## 2004 Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture:

### A National Award Program

This award 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 2004 National Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Conference. Awardees will be selected by a panel of experts familiar with education, agriculture and AITC. Nominations are now open for these awards, and applications must be received by **February 17, 2004**.



## What's New...with AITC

### Enter Your K-6 Students Artwork in our Calendar Contest

All students 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.** Visit our Web site to view the current calendar artwork, download entry forms or view the rules. We printed 7,500 calendars for the 2003-2004 school year and everyone that submitted artwork received a calendar. 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.

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, flowers, watermelons, alfalfa, and cattle and calves. For a complete list of Oregon commodities, visit our Web site. Please submit artwork in a horizontal position and include a typed list of student names for their certificates. If you have any questions, please call our office at 541-737-8629.

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

Plan to attend the session in Corvallis June 20-25 or the session in LaGrande July 18-23. For more information about the Oregon Agriculture Education Foundation's program, visit our Web site and click on *Teacher Workshops*. The cost is only \$400 for the week and includes tuition, meals, lodging and tours. Teachers will receive new curriculum and resource materials for classrooms. The entire cost for the week is nearly \$1,500 per teacher, so it's a great value. Visit our Web site for the application. Applications for the Corvallis session are due by April 1, and the LaGrande session deadline is May 1. Class size is limited so submit your application early.

### Updates to Web Site

Visit our Web site to view the improvements to our resource library. We have added a list of books that are available and added an online form to make it easier for you to order materials. Please remember to return resources via MEDIA MAIL for reduced prices.

### Upcoming Events:

- Earth Day at the Oregon Garden April 17
- Ag Fest at the Oregon State Fairgrounds April 24-25



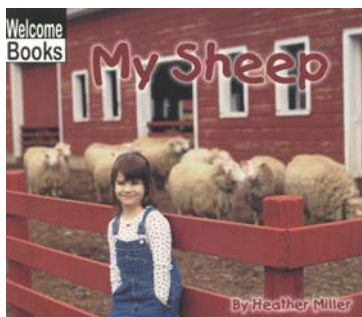
Visit the new National AITC Resource Directory at <http://www.agclassroom.org>. The goal is to be a valuable resource for preK-12 educators who integrate agriculture & food systems education into their teaching. You can search by grade level, academic subject and agricultural content.



# Featured Resources

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

## Educational Units



**Sheep Kit**  
**Grades K-3 (Books, Lessons, Video)**  
This kit includes books entitled *My Sheep* and *Animal Fibers*, several lesson plans and activities, a kit on *Wool Fiber In The*

*Making* from Pendleton Woolen Mills, and *Sheep Crossing* video which explores the world of sheep and wool. You will watch border collies at work and play, follow teams of children bringing wool from sheep to shawl. **Free loan from Oregon AIRC, provided by the Corvallis Kiwanis Foundation.**

## Dig In! (Grades 3-4 Kit)

This 3rd and 4th grade unit uses the ancient



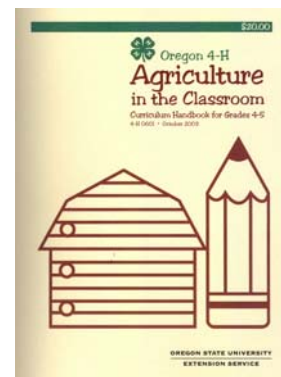
Egyptian culture and its pyramids to teach fundamental lessons about the food guide pyramid, good nutrition and physical activity.

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.

## Oregon AIRC Curriculum

### Grades 4-5 (Book)

This new Oregon curriculum is written about commodities and natural resources in Oregon. It features different regions of our state and is written to the Oregon benchmark standards. To obtain a free copy of the curriculum, you must participate in a workshop.



Contact our office at 541-737-8629 if you are interested in scheduling a workshop at your school or in your community. **Free from Oregon AIRC.**

## Farm Facts

### Grades 7-12 (Booklet)

Units emphasize skills in language arts, math, social studies, research, teamwork and others.

The lesson plan folder includes student work sheets that can be copies for classroom use, along with teacher answer sheets. Designed for use with Farm Facts which is included. Farm Facts is a 26-page booklet with graphics and tables presenting facts about today's agricultural production, food consumption, and international trade, historical highlights, and glossary. Includes poster insert illustrating state commodities and national rankings. Published by the American Farm Bureau Federation. **Free loan from Oregon AIRC.**



**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. The mailing list is confidential and will not be released.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Mail to:**

**Agriculture in the Classroom**

Oregon State University

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