

Oregon

Winter 2009

Agriculture in the Classroom

A Resource & Newsletter for Oregon Educators

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March 15-21, 2009

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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.



Apples to Oregon: A Perfect Fit for State's 150th

This year's AITC Literacy Project book is *Apples to Oregon* by Oregon author Deborah Hopkinson. This tall tale celebrates the heroic journey of a pioneer family and their infant orchard over the long and often dangerous Oregon Trail.

Apples to Oregon is a perfect fit for celebrating our state's 150th birthday and the delightful illustrations are sure to capture the imaginations of students of all ages.

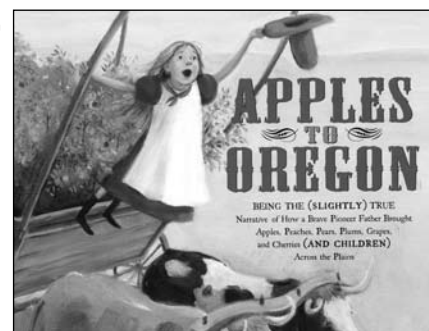
The book is based on the true story of Henderson Luelling, who in 1837 brought his family of ten, plus 700 of his best fruit trees and berry bushes, over the Oregon Trail to the Portland area. His was the first nursery in the state.

How the Literacy Program Works

AITC trains volunteers who visit local schools and read to students in Kindergarten - fourth grade. After the reading, volunteers do an activity with students and share their connection to agriculture.

Start to finish, the program takes about 45 minutes. All materials are completely prepared, plus classrooms can keep a copy of the book. Reading sessions will be scheduled March 16 - May 31.

Teachers who participated in the literacy project last year gave AITC volunteers high marks. Salem teacher Jill McAllister said, "My students loved the presentation! It was



an awesome way to kick off our plant unit." To enhance the reading sessions, hands-on lessons (in math, science, history, language arts, and geography) that relate to the book can be downloaded free off AITC's web site.

Last year's event - the first ever - had 130 volunteers read to over 7,300 students statewide.

If you are interested in bringing this program to your school, or being a volunteer, visit AITC's web site.

Donated Books Help Schools Get Oregonized



39 cases of *Get Oregonized* books to be donated to schools.

Get Oregonized is a state history book for third and fourth graders, published by AITC. The text helps students

understand and appreciate the rich history, people and natural resources that shaped Oregon. The book includes maps, illustrations, graphs, modern and historical photos.

AITC distributes the donated books to schools in the following manner. When a school buys 20 books for their school, AITC will donate 10 books, for a total of 30 books — the average class size. Schools also receive a free *Get Oregonized Teacher's*

Guide, when they purchase a classroom set.

The *Teacher's Guide* provides lesson plans, over 60 printable activity pages, and review tests. For schools with less than 30 students per class, AITC tries to provide a 2 to 1 match.

Call the program office at 541-737-8629 to discuss how AITC can support your school and bring this book to your classroom. Excerpts of the book and teacher guide are on the AITC web site to preview.

OSU Sheep Barns Open for Lambing

Take your students on a field trip they won't soon forget this spring.

Oregon State University's Sheep Research Center will be open for its annual spring lamb viewing February 9 through March 14. During this time, visitors have a rare



opportunity to see lambs being birthed and newborns.

This year, more than 240 ewes from a variety of breeds are expected to give birth to about 400 lambs in the barn. The public can view the ewes and lambs each day from 9 am to 2 pm. The barn is located at 7565 N.W. Oak Creek Drive in Corvallis.

Groups of more than ten visitors can arrange an appointment by calling Tom Nichols at 541-737-2903, or by sending an e-mail to lambing.barn@oregonstate.edu. Visitors are asked to bring a donation of canned goods which will be donated to the local food bank.

Add to your field trip AITC's Sheep Kit for grades K-3 (books, lessons, video). Kit includes books designed for younger students reading success, related lessons and a kit on wool fiber making. Check it out at AITC's Free Loan Library online!

150th Celebrates History & Agricultural Heritage



February 14, 2009 will mark Oregon's 150 birthday! This event is an ideal teaching opportunity for sharing lessons on our state's rich history, diverse landscapes and people, as well as vocabulary words like sesquicentennial.

Susan Castillio, Oregon's Superintendent of Public Instruction, encourages educators to take advantage of this wonderful celebration, "Rarely do our students have such occasion to share and reflect on what defines and inspires us – on all those qualities and events which make us uniquely Oregon."

A great place to start looking for materials is the **Oregon 150** web site - oregon150.org. Follow the education link to find curriculum, lesson plans and resources especially created for this event.

Another fantastic source for Oregon history lessons is AITC's *Get Oregonized*, a book written for third and fourth graders on the state's history, people and resources. A preview of the book and accompanying teachers' guide is online at <http://aitc.oregonstate.edu>. Two lessons are also included in this issue.

Essay Contest: "What We're Made Of" 4th Graders Can Win Ag Fest Field Trip



Ag Fest is teaming up with McDonald's Corporation to sponsor an essay contest for Oregon fourth graders. Essay winners get a special hands-on field trip for their class. Up to 17 classes can win.

For a chance to win an Ag Fest School Day field trip for their class, fourth grade students need to submit entries to the "What We're Made Of" essay contest. Essays should explain the agricultural products made in their area and unique facts about locally grown food and fiber.

Complete contest guidelines will be available mid-January at www.oragfest.com.

Winners can take their class on a field trip to the State Fair Grounds in Salem, Friday, April 24, the day before Ag Fest opens to the public. McDonald's will provide winning classes with free transportation to the fair grounds, and a meal for their classroom.

The Ag Fest School Day includes hands-on activities such as animal exhibits, butter-making, and other activities that let students touch, taste and experience the wonderful world of Oregon agriculture.

For more information contact Michele Ruby, michele@ruby-do.com.

Historical Field Trips Around Oregon

Learning by doing, seeing and touching is an ideal way to share the Oregon story.

Below are field trip sites with historical programs this winter, as well as other exhibits to enliven learning.



The Oregon Historical Society - Portland – www.ohs.org/index.cfm
503-222-1741

Museum of Natural & Cultural History – University of Oregon – Eugene – www.uoregon.edu/~mnh/
541-346-3024

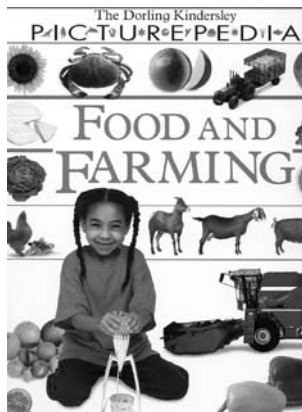
High Desert Museum – Bend www.highdesertmuseum.org
541-382-4754

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center – Baker City – www.oregontrails.blm.gov
541-523-1843

North Lincoln County Historical Museum – Lincoln City – www.northlincolncountyhistoricalmuseum.org
541-996-6698

To find a museum closer to home, check out the **Oregon Museum Association web site** - www.oregonmuseums.org for information and links on more than 200+ museums and interpretive centers in Oregon.

From the AITC Library: Pick of the Season



Food and Farming

Grades K-2 (Book)

This book explains the world of food and farming with vivid pictures and clear concise text. It covers such topics as wheat, fruits, fishing, underground vegetables and cocoa.

Activity for Your Health: New education lessons are available to help children learn the *MyPyramid* food guidance system. This is a great tool for teachers to help children explore the delicate balance between healthy nutrition and exercise. Web link: www.fns.usda.gov/TN/Resources/mpk1_lesson1.pdf.

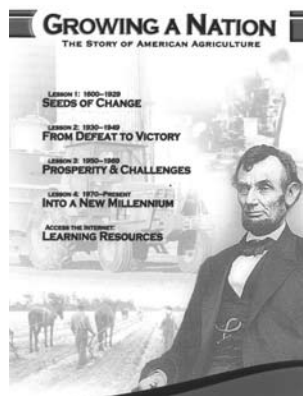
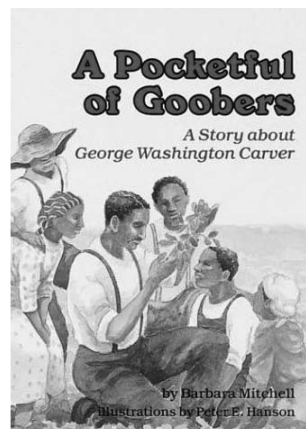
A Pocketful of Goobers

A Story About George Washington Carver

Grades 3-5 (Book)

This chapter book is a great link to celebrating Black History month. George Washington Carver was a pivotal figure in revolutionized agriculture in the Southern United States. Carver wanted poor farmers to grow alternative crops to cotton, both as a source of their own food as well as a source of other products to improve their quality of life.

Activity - Changes in Agriculture through Time: This activity is a good match for the book on Carver, plus it fits well with the state's 150th birthday. It can be downloaded from the *Activities* section of the AITC web site.



Growing a Nation

Grades 5-12 (CD-ROM – Free download)

This is a fabulous American history program for secondary teachers featuring the story of American agriculture, an event time line, lesson plans, movies and more. It can be downloaded on-line through the AITC Free Loan Library under the CDs section. There are links to online teacher resources and its compliments existing American History textbooks and high school history curricula. Educators can use the program to teach about agricultural innovations, research and inventions that have positively changed the lives of all Americans, their culture, economy and quality of life.

Bringing Biotechnology to Life

Grades 9-12 (Video & Teachers Guide)

This 20-minute video explores biotechnology through the eyes of a student as he creates a presentation for science class. Students learn from scientists with expertise in food science, genomics, plant genetics, and crop molecular biology. The fast paced video explores an array of biotechnologies being developed for use in medicine, fuel production, nutrition, and feeding a hungry planet. The video provides a comprehensive overview of biotechnology.



CHECK OUT 101: Using AITC's Free Resource Library

Did you know there are over 600 books, videos, CD's and other teaching materials available from AITC online?

Check them out at <http://AITC.oregonstate.edu/resources/index.htm>.

Here are some tips to help make your trip to our online library seamless.

Time

Please allow two weeks from the time you order. AITC mails materials twice a week.

Amount

Please order only what you need. AITC serves the entire state of Oregon and ordering only the materials you'll use gives more teachers a chance to take advantage of AITC's resources. You can have multiple orders throughout the year.

Return Policy

Please return materials on time. Ideally materials should be back within three weeks, however, you can request an extension.

Participation Form

We ask that library users complete a participation form. This form helps us track who is using the materials, and how effective they are. This form is also required on a federal level for us to maintain our nonprofit status. All information is confidential.

Questions?

Contact: Darcy Kirk
AITC Education Assistant
541-737-1318
Darcy.Kirk@oregonstate.edu



Art About Agriculture Traveling Show: Inspires Young Artist for AITC Calendar Contest

Are you planning on entering your elementary students in the annual AITC Calendar Contest? Consider inspiring your students to create great works with a virtual or live field trip to the annual Art About Agriculture contest.

Art About Agriculture was established in 1983 as the first annual arts competition and tour exhibit with

an agricultural theme. It recognizes professional and emerging Pacific Northwest artists, creates a growing, dynamic, permanent collection of fine art based on agriculture.

The online art gallery has winners and honorable mention pieces dating back to 2002. It can be viewed at <http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/art/>.

The 2009 pieces will go on tour around the state. A calendar with locations will be posted on the web site later this winter.

The AITC Calendar Contest creates positive learning experiences for elementary students about agriculture in Oregon that furthers their understanding of agriculture's impact on our daily lives.

Each student who enters receives a personalized certificate of participation. Thirteen students will receive a \$50 savings bond, their artwork will be in the 2009-10 AITC Calendar, and featured on the AITC web site. This year's deadline is May 15, 2009.

Complete details are on the AITC web site: <http://aitc.oregonstate.edu>.



Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation
Oregon State University
105 Ballard Extension Hall
Corvallis, OR 97333



SAI: Early Registration Saves

Register by March 31 for the Summer Ag Institute (SAI) and save \$100!

SAI is a week-long program offered through Oregon State University for K-12 grade teachers who have little or no background in agriculture.

Participants earn three graduate credits and learn how agriculture can be used for teaching math, science, social studies and English to enhance achievement for Education Reform Standards.

Session 1:
June 21-26; Corvallis

Session 2:
July 12-17; La Grande

Cost & Class Requirements:
On-site participation (5 nights, 6 days) for all SAI candidates; overnight stay with a host farm family; \$400 early registration fee before March 31. Learn more about SAI at <http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/workshops/index.htm>

Thank You!

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