



NC Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Award

What is the purpose of the award?

North Carolina Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom (NCFB AITC) program will honor a practicing NC teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts across the various areas of study. Agriculture is an important part of everyone's life. Clothing, food, fuel, housing, medicine, and much more are rooted in agriculture. Agricultural issues can support the teaching of many academic disciplines.

Recognizing this, we would like to honor educators across North Carolina that are effectively integrating agriculture into the classroom curriculum. Enclosed are the award guidelines, and the application. Teachers will be asked to submit award applications that describe their methods for incorporating agricultural concepts into their classrooms.

What is Ag in the Classroom?

Ag in the Classroom is a non-profit educational foundation sponsored by NCFB, which was created to promote an awareness and recognition of the importance of the sources of our food and fiber.

Agriculture and related agribusinesses is the number one industry in the United States and in North Carolina. The program, comprised of three parts—curricula, professional development workshops for teachers, and county Farm Bureau support—is available to all North Carolina educators at no to sometimes little cost.

Who is eligible for this award?

Licensed North Carolina teachers currently teaching Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade in public or private schools, and are integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula (i.e. reading, writing, math, science, etc.) are encouraged to apply. Agriculture teachers will not be considered for this award. **NCFB AITC reserves the right not to select a recipient for this award if applicants do not meet the selection criteria.**

Selection Criteria

A panel of judges will review the applications and evaluate them on the following criteria:

20% ~ Creativity and Utilization of Agricultural Information

The lesson/unit/project must be creative and interesting for students and help them become more knowledgeable about the food and fiber system. Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning. A lesson/unit/project description (two page limit, single sided) must be included, citing original sources, if adapted. Optional related materials may be included, such as photos, student work sample or citing of additional resources. (20 points)

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 NC Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom

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20% ~ Interdisciplinary Approaches

This portion will focus on the degree to which agricultural concepts have been included in a variety of subjects and disciplines within the grade level. Value will be placed on the approach which teaches agriculture across the curriculum. Evidence is required to demonstrate that the project implements Ag in the Classroom lesson plans and/or related Ag literacy materials. (20 points)

20% ~ Advancement of Educational Standards

The degree to which the nominee aligns agricultural learning activities to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study must be addressed by the lesson/unit/project in two or more disciplines. Interdisciplinary programs are highly encouraged. (20 points)

20% ~ Student Impact

The degree of evidence from the teacher's impact on student attitudes and overall learning directly connected with the lesson/unit/project. The lesson/unit/project should be adaptable for use by other teachers. (20 points)

20% ~ Endorsement by an Administrator

The degree to which a letter submitted by a school administrator substantiates the nominee's excellence in, and dedication to, the teaching role. Project motivation should show teacher appreciation for agriculture and its current role in society. (20 points)

How will the selected teacher be recognized?

The winning teacher will be notified by February 15, 2021 and will be:

1. Recognized at the NCFB Annual Meeting to be held December 2021 in Greensboro, NC.
2. Invited to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Des Moines, Iowa on June 28 - July 1, 2021 with up to \$1200.00 of expenses covered by NCFB AITC program. Travel and hotel arrangements must be coordinated through NCFB AITC prior to conference registration deadlines. Note: Funds may only be used for allowable travel expenses incurred by recipient. They are **NOT** to be used to cover the costs of recipients' guests to the conference. Furthermore, it is at the discretion of NCFB AITC as to how the funds will be disbursed.
3. Invited to share their ideas at various workshops during the NCFB Ag in the Classroom Going Local Teacher Workshops.
4. Encouraged to host an Ag in the Classroom professional development training in their school district.

Application Form
2021 North Carolina Ag in the Classroom
Teacher of the Year Award
(To be submitted by the teacher)

Name _____ Home/Mobile Phone (____) _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

School _____ Subject and/or Grade Level _____

County in which you teach _____

Email Address _____

Local Newspaper _____

Address _____

Complete the following:

I. Describe the programs/methods used to incorporate agricultural concepts into your curriculum. At least one lesson/unit/project (two page limit, single sided) must be included, citing original sources, if adapted. Please attach any related materials on additional pages, such as photos, citing of additional resources, and/or evidence of Ag in the Classroom lesson plans and/or related agriculture literacy materials.

II. What objectives from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (or any other relevant curriculum standards) do you address in your teaching about agriculture?

III. On which agricultural concepts do you focus upon?

IV. Describe the impact these programs/methods have on the student attitudes and overall learning.

V. What sources do you utilize for information regarding agriculture?

VI. A letter submitted and signed by a school administrator on official school letterhead paper that substantiates your excellence in, and dedication to, the teaching role. The administrator should know and express your appreciation for agriculture and its current role in society.

VII. In 300 words or less, please describe your motivation and philosophy for integrating agriculture into your classroom curriculum.

Applications must be postmarked no later than January 22, 2021 to:

North Carolina Farm Bureau
Ag in the Classroom
PO Box 27766
Raleigh, NC 27611
Attention: **Michele Smoot**