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Resource Roundup
WITH AG
IN THE
CLASSROOM



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We are coming to you from the dusty trails of summer to roundup some tried and true programs from our Ag in the Classroom program. Whether you are looking for ways to get in the doors of your local schools or you are a seasoned classroom visitor, we think you can find something here to use for educational outreach in your communities.

THE BOOK PLANTER

This program got a facelift this year! We like to think the Book Planter program is planting seeds of agricultural literacy through books—a resource found in every classroom. Each month, we feature an agricultural book appropriate for kindergarten through 5th grade. Twice a year, in April and September, we feature chapter books appropriate for grades 4 – 8, along with our regular offering. We write an activity sheet that is aligned with North Carolina educational standards to accompany the book. The cost is \$5.00 per book (that includes the book, activity sheet, and shipping). Many county Farm Bureaus purchase these books to donate to local teachers or schools, but we have many teachers and individuals purchase these on their own. Since 2014, we have distributed nearly 27,000 agriculturally accurate books!

GOING LOCAL GRANT

This 10-year-old grant program is not losing any popularity! It has funded projects from school gardens to incubators to ag-literacy kits and more! We offer \$500 for agricultural projects in classrooms and schools. The grant is offered twice a year—in April and November. To date, we have awarded 495 grants for a total of \$231,000!

AG MAGS

These four-page, colorful agricultural magazines contain information about North Carolina commodities, careers, and educational activities. They come in packs of 25 and cost \$5.00 per pack. We currently have seven editions: Christmas Trees, Sweetpotatoes, Peanuts, Pork, Strawberries, Beef, and our newest—Careers—explores the many agricultural careers in North Carolina. These are perfect for community events as giveaways, or for students as an informational text for learning. Stay tuned for future editions about oysters, turkeys, and apples!

FREE LESSON PLANS, CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES AND DIGITAL CURRICULUM

Did you know we offer free lesson plans? We have North Carolina-specific lessons, and over 1,000 additional resources offered through the National Agriculture in the Classroom Curriculum Matrix. We also have digital curriculum that can be used in the classroom, either in-person or virtually. These resources are all free and downloadable. This is a great place to start if you are looking for an activity for a classroom visit.

AG SCIENCE EVENTS

Ag Science events are a great way for you to partner with your local schools to create an event all about agriculture. Students and parents can rotate around education stations to learn about plant and animal life cycles, specific agricultural commodities, nutrition and health, forestry, and much more. Ag in the Classroom can help you plan an ag science event, or work with you on important education stations to feature. The best part is that agriculture has many STEM connections, so it is an easy fit in schools.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Every year we honor a North Carolina teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts in non-agricultural curricula (i.e., reading, writing, math, social studies, etc.). This teacher is recognized at the NC Farm Bureau Annual Convention and gets a stipend to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in June. The deadline for applications for this award is February 15.

There is a lot more to explore on the Ag in the Classroom website (which you can find at ncagintheclassroom.com), so don't miss out! We look forward to seeing your ag literacy efforts at the local level. If you want to know how you can get involved, need resources in your county, or have any questions about Ag in the Classroom, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Morton, our Ag in the Classroom Director, at heather.morton@ncfb.org. Here's to clear skies and happy trails in the year to come!

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