

# Ag In The Classroom

## October 2008 Newsletter

### What's in a name?

Thanks to all of you that attended the update meeting on August 28th. If you were unable to attend we sent your information packet to your county insurance office, you can pick them up there if you haven't already. One of the big announcements at this meeting was the name change of the program. Everything else stays the same, but the Women's Leadership Committee felt it was time to share the same name as the other programs in the US and that ag is all encompassing of our industry today. This will also help teachers and outsiders understand what the program promotes. Old habits are hard to break, but help us share the word that farming the classroom is now Ag In The Classroom.

Another announcement at this meeting was the awarding of a \$10,000 grant from the USDA that will allow us to distribute teaching kits to each county! The kit will be designed with the pizza theme and allow for many different lessons to be taught, from the parts of a pizza to making cheese in the classroom. More information on the kits will be available when the kits are ready, hopefully by the first of the year.

### By the numbers

From the reports turned in by volunteers this past school year, you were able to reach more than 86,000 students in 3,500 classrooms. These are great numbers, but from talking to many of you it should be higher. We can only count numbers of reports turned in. If you don't send in your numbers, those kids aren't counted. But what are those numbers used for? Besides letting all of you know how many Hoosier children you reached, we inform the board of directors of your accomplishments. We use these numbers to determine our budget for the coming year and we use them to apply for grants like the one mentioned above. These numbers are very valuable!

### How can I get my numbers recorded?

In the coming weeks we will be designing new forms that will hopefully make this job easier for all of us. Once these forms are designed we will get them out to all of you to use. This program is only as strong as all of us can make it. Let's make it rock solid! For now, continue to record numbers as you always have and send them in as you get them completed. Thanks for all your hard work!

### White-Reinhardt AFBF Mini Grant

Included in your packet from the update was the application for this grant. You can also find it on the website [www.ageducate.org](http://www.ageducate.org) where you can fill it out, print off and send to our office. Each county can submit one application for a program or materials that you feel would make your programs better. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact our office for more information. Your application must be received by Joni by October 15th. You can request up to \$500 for this grant. Good Luck!

### AFBF materials

The above web site [www.ageducate.org](http://www.ageducate.org) is also the site where your county can order educational materials directly from AFBF, stickers, ag fact pencils, and lessons on the tree farmer can all be ordered from this site.

Your county can also order materials that we stock in our office by calling Jena Halcomb at 317-692-7830. Remember to give plenty of notice so you get your materials in time. Our current promotional catalog can be found on our website under the members only section.

### Save the date

It was announced at the update that the date may change to April for the next update. After reading your evaluations and discussing it with some of you, the committee decided that the **2009 Ag In The Classroom Update will be September 3rd.**

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*"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."*

*-Walt Disney*

## The Tree Farmer

To show our appreciation for those of you that attended the update meeting, you were given a copy of the Tree Farmer book by author and Rolling Stones keyboardist Chuck Leavell. We have a few of these left in our office. If you did not attend the update and would like a copy we have them for \$14.00 each or you can order them from various online bookstores for \$16.95.

One assignment of those in attendance was to come up with ideas to use this book with students. In the coming months we will be listing some of those ideas that you may want to try.

### Ideas on using “The Tree Farmer”

Penny Jo Brim - Jefferson Co.

Have students bring things grown on trees such as apples, oranges, nuts.

Take a trip outside to study trees.

Plant a tree at the school or local park.

Peg Sullivan - Cass Co.

Take in maple seeds and have the class plant them and watch them grow into seedlings that could be planted later.

Joan Truax - Hendricks Co.

Talk about how our air is cleaner because of trees and the cool shade they provide.

Amy Spurgeon - Johnson Co.

Take pinecones and nuts in the shell to classes for them to see and touch, could also include maple syrup for them to try.

Keep looking for new ideas and we'll pass along new tips each month. It's amazing the number of items made from trees!

### 100 Days/100 Things

Many schools celebrate the first 100 days that they have been in class. There are list of items that teachers use to have the students understand what 100 is and what 100 can look like. If your school doesn't celebrate, this might be something new to try and if they do, make sure they incorporate ag into the process.

Here are some things that you can do for 100 days or any day, use your imagination and look around your house or office to see what else you can come up with...

### 100 Day Ideas

- Give students long strips of paper, challenge them to come up with 100 facts about ag. Once you have gone over the facts and discussed, make a paper chain.
- Have students come up with a list of 100 snacks they would eat. Discuss the nutrition of their list and talk about healthy choices.
- Which weighs more, 100 kernels of popcorn or 100 pieces of popped corn? Count out and discuss the findings.
- Tell the students that they each have 100 acres of land. What would they do with it? Discuss what you do with 100 acres.
- Indiana has 92 counties, discuss some of the items grown in these counties. For the other 8 items talk about what commodities rank highest in the state.

This is just a sample. If you would like to see a listing of 100 ideas, visit our website [www.infarmbureau.org](http://www.infarmbureau.org) look in education/ag in the classroom/activities for the link.

### Harvest time

It is a busy time for all of us, and one of the more popular times to get into classrooms. Teachers and students love to hear about what you do for a living and where all those corns and beans will be headed once they leave the field. Be sure to take samples for them to see and touch, this will make it a memorable experience for them!

### Budget time

Here at the state office and in the counties, it is time to think about budget for the coming year. Be sure you discuss with your board any plans you have for programs and expenses for the coming year. Be sure to share with them how many students you reached last year and how many you may do this year.

The National Ag In The Classroom conference will be taking place in St. Louis this year. If you have the chance to go, it should be a great learning experience to get new ideas and network with other AITC people from across the county. Registration opens in January. We will keep you posted, but you can visit [www.aginthecllassroom.org](http://www.aginthecllassroom.org) for conference prices and early agenda.



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