2014 Annual Report of State Programs

45 States Reporting

National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

Louisville, Kentucky

June 16, 2015
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National Agriculture in the Classroom State Contact Standards and Expectations

Goals
- To provide guidelines establishing minimum standards and expectations for state contacts which promote program maintenance and growth.
- To provide opportunities for state contacts to advance their Agriculture in the Classroom program at state, regional and national levels.

Background
Starting in the early 1980s, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) national program staff led the effort to certify Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) State Contacts and to communicate with them regarding state, regional and national program expectations and opportunities. Throughout the years this included working with active state contacts, identifying state contact replacements, nurturing inactive states, and supporting personal and professional growth of veteran state contacts.

In 2012, it became the responsibility of the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) Organization Executive Committee, working as a volunteer network of state contacts elected by their NAITC members, to provide guidance to strengthen state programs. The NAITC Organization is prepared to encourage and support state programs and their staff. Thus, we challenge and encourage state AITC program leadership to adopt the following minimum standards and expectations for official NAITC State Contacts.

Inherent State Contact Obligations and Guiding Principles
Each NAITC State Contact is the official representative and spokesperson for Agriculture in the Classroom in their respective states. The NAITC State Contact is an important resource and connection for leadership in agricultural organizations and education communities. When support for agricultural literacy information is needed, the NAITC State Contact should be available to participate and provide educational resources.

State Program Level
The official NAITC State Contact should:
- Be the designated NAITC leader for agricultural literacy in the state.
- Be the NAITC state designee for identifying and providing accurate agricultural literacy educational resources for students and educators.
- Participate in agricultural education/literacy collaborations and partnerships.
- Actively be involved in statewide AITC curriculum development (as appropriate, based on program structure), aligning classroom resources to state academic standards, state AITC Board development and fundraising, program outreach, teacher professional development, collaboration with education groups, and website maintenance.

Regional Program Level
The official NAITC State Contact should:
- Attend the annual regional NAITC State Contacts meeting and consider hosting that meeting as part of the site rotation.
- Support regional colleagues by sharing resources/ideas, collaborating on projects that are mutually beneficial and providing assistance when possible.
• Consider mentoring new NAITC State Contacts within the region and/or across the nation.
• Be willing to serve as a regional representative on a national committee.
• Consider being a Regional Representative to NAITC as part of the regional rotation.

National Program Level
The official NAITC State Contact should:
• Advocate for the NAITC Organization by paying annual dues. Benefits include securing voting rights at the NAITC annual meeting, the opportunity to submit for grants and awards (teaching and advocate applications) coordinated at the national level, and supporting the work of the NAITC leadership.
• Faithfully submit a state report on time and with sufficient detail.
• Attend and be active in the annual NAITC conference, including bringing a state contingency, hosting or facilitating workshops and supporting the annual auction to financially benefit NAITC.
• Consider hosting the national conference as part of the conference’s regional rotation.
• Gain professional experience and exposure by serving as one of two regional representatives to the NAITC organization.
• Gain professional experience and exposure by serving in the organizational officer positions of President, President Elect, Treasurer and Secretary.

Overarching benefits for an active and strong NAITC State Contacts
• Opportunity to learn from and network with program colleagues in your region and across the nation; including sharing of the latest agricultural literacy information and resources and working cooperatively; complimentary exhibit space at the annual national conference.
• Access to NAITC grants and awards programs, including showcasing exemplary teaching through the National Teaching Awards Program.
• Funding and planning support if the state hosts the annual national conference or a regional meeting.
• Being the designated NAITC leader for agricultural literacy in your state.

Conclusion
Official NAITC State Contact status should not be “owned” by one group or individual, but rather, should be representative of the larger coalition of program supporters within the state. It is important that state AITC program leadership understands the important role the NAITC State Contact has at the state, regional and national levels. The official NAITC State Contact should be integrally engaged in the day-to-day program activities—an individual most active in state program implementation.

A Brief History of the Agriculture in the Classroom Movement

Note: Much of the following information was derived from the original proclamation of the USDA Secretary of Agriculture and the State Action Plan (1981-83)

History of State AITC Programs
In 1981, then Secretary of Agriculture John Block initiated the Agriculture in the Classroom movement by establishing a national task force and enlisting the USDA as the national coordinator. A Declaration of Principal was established and sent to all governors for signature and to begin the process of establishing state program needs and structure. Some states moved quickly to “get on board” while others developed a program over time, or not at all. Today, there is a wide variety of state program activity with extreme ranges of staffing, budgets, state organization buy-in/collaboration and effectiveness in terms of program delivery and impact.
Premise for Developing Strong State AITC Programs (as stated in the original proclamation from Secretary of Agriculture John Block)

Agriculture is the foundation of human life. The production and distribution of food and fiber have shaped the development of mankind since the beginning of time. American agriculture affects all of us as consumers, workers and citizens. America has transformed from an agrarian society where 98% of the population farmed, to a prosperous urban society in which less than 2% of the population produces the food and fiber for all of society. This transformation, under which so many now depend on so few for so much, has moved many elements of the policy and decision-making process affecting our food supply off the individual farm and into the public arena.

This premise is the very reason why it is important for states to develop a strong and effective AITC program, and why it is important for state program Board of Directors/leadership to advocate for an engaged state contact at the state, regional and national level. A state AITC program is only as good as its program staff and volunteer leadership. Finally, it is important to point out the overarching goal to develop a broad-based, nonpartisan, non-political coalition of agricultural literacy friends dedicated to the principal that since agriculture affects us all, the public should be a knowledgeable, well-informed people.

Stating Todays Case for Agricultural Literacy
Today, across the nation, agricultural literacy is one of the hottest topic within agricultural education and the broader agriculture community. It is the role of state AITC programs to articulate this opportunity to their K-12 education community and beyond.

Core Principles of a successful State AITC Programs
- Representation from the many interested organizations and groups from the state’s agriculture and education communities.
- Representation of a wide variety of interests.
- The organization must represent a unified agricultural message. AITC should strive to do what is best to meet the needs of K-12 students and teachers, while fulfilling the mission of agricultural literacy education.
- The organization must have a structure in order to plan, raise needed funds, implement a successful program, and carry out program assessment and evaluation.
- A strong state program will have an identity, credibility, visibility and be sustainable over time.
State Report Background

State reports assist Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) state directors, National AITC leaders, USDA staff, and researchers with annual benchmark data to determine impacts, funding, and program priorities.

Q1: Resource Development

Please list by title the classroom resources that were developed or modified by your AITC program staff this past year:

- 40 (89%) states reported they had developed or modified resources in 2014
- 38 (88%) states reported they had developed or modified resources in 2013
- 41 (98%) states in 2012

Q2: Educational Standard Correlations

If you listed resources for Question 1, were the resources aligned or correlated to state or national education standards?

- 25 reported: All
- 18 reported: Most
- 4 reported: None

Q3: Estimated number of teachers contacted/trained face-to-face statewide with AITC programs, curriculum, or other resources, 2010-2014

Q4, 5 & 7: The estimation of the number of students reached statewide through their teachers, directly through AITC staff and volunteers with AITC programs, curriculum, or other resources.
Q6: Estimate the number of volunteers who conducted or assisted with AITC programs.

Q8: Number of pre-service teachers contacted or trained with AITC.

Q9 & Q11: Budgets

Q10: Funding sources for state AITC 2014 budgets.

No state receives direct federal on-going dollars outside of a grants.

- 23 (51%) reported 100% private funding
  - 50% in 2013
- 19 (42%) reported state and private funding
  - 27% in 2013
- 2 states reported they received federal funds for 2014 programs (AZ, MO)

Q12: A full-time equivalent (FTE) is 40 hours per week. What percentage of an FTE did you dedicate to Agricultural Literacy/AITC in 2014?

Q13: Please note the percentage (0-100%) of the time your state program staff spent on the coordination and/or facilitation of the following in 2014.

- Other: Please specify: Agricultural Literacy Research, Program Evaluation, Classroom School: Self, Curriculum Development, Ag Group Professional Development, Marketing and Public Relations (newsletters, websites, newsletters/Volunteer Training, Pre-production development: workshops, Outreach (i.e., Farm Field Day, School Gardens, etc.), Teacher (in-service) professional development, Other: Administrative duties (budgets, grants, personnel), fund raising, grant writing, and setting up conferences.
Q14: Estimate the number of hours you think it would take an educator to develop/write an agriculture lesson plan, complete with background and activities, for the following grade levels:

Number of hours to develop/write lesson plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PK</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q16: What, if any, USDA agencies have you worked within the last two years (2013 & 2014)?

Frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Food Safety (-)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Research Service (-)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Development (-)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension Service (-)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Research Service (-)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Service Agency (-)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Development (-)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Service Agency (-)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q17-18: Outputs and Outcomes

- Accomplishment (outputs): achieving the completion or fulfillment of something
- Impact (outcome): to have an immediate and strong (measurable) effect on something or somebody related to program goals or objectives

To see state accomplishments and impacts, review the state summaries website: http://agclassroom.org/statesummaries/index.html

National Agriculture in the Classroom

Vision
Agriculture is valued by all.

Mission
Increasing agricultural literacy through K-12 education.

Agricultural Literacy
An agriculturally literate person understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life.
Alabama 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Yes, a DVD was revised and made available to teachers who attended the Ag in the Classroom Summer Institute and made available on the website, DVD and Facebook page; can be found at www.alabamaaitc.org. Commodity specific posters named a Month of Harvests were designed for use in classrooms on bulletin boards and in teaching students where their food and fiber comes from.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
The Alabama AITC programs major accomplishments during 2014 included a Summer Institute, lasting three days. The agenda for the workshop included original materials designed for classroom teaching, field trips to farms and agribusiness enterprises, and on-the-scene visits with farmers and agricultural leaders. In addition, Alabama AITC was a sponsor of student Day at the National fair as well as co-sponsor of the annual statewide Farm-City poster contest, a Farm-City calendar, featuring the winning posters. Instructional materials designed by Alabama AITC teachers are provided to classroom teachers and home school programs free of charge. A website of current information concerning Alabama AITC activities was updated with current curriculum and resource information. Also, a Facebook page was developed to inform Facebook users of activities offered by Ag in the Classroom.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
- Twenty Agricultural Field/Education Days were held across our state as a result of Ag in the Classroom In-services and workshops.
- 900 teachers were provided AITC materials and curriculum through statewide trade show events
- Kindergarten through sixth grade students received agricultural classroom instruction through hands-on activities during the school year.
- 80% of teachers who attended the AITC summer institute located the applications through the AITC web-site and plan to visit the web-site on a regular basis for additional curriculum and updates.
- Twenty-eight teachers applied for AITC mini-grants during the fall and spring to fund their hands on learning experiences in their classroom.

Biosketch
State Contact: Kim Ramsey; kearwood@alfafarmers.org

I serve as the Alabama Ag in the Classroom Steering Committee Chairman. I received B.S. and Master’s Degrees in Home Economics and have worked in the Agricultural sector the past 20= years with the Cooperative Extension System as a 4-H Agent and the Alabama Farmers Federation as the Women’s Division Director. I have served on the Alabama Ag in the Classroom Steering Committee for 10 years.
Alaska 2014 Report

Classroom Resources

- 18 new lessons were created and formatted for AKAITC and distributed to the teachers who attended the summer institute.
- 49 lessons that had been previously available on the AKAITC website were placed on the new webpage [http://www.fairbankssoilwater.org/akagintheclassroomlessons.htm](http://www.fairbankssoilwater.org/akagintheclassroomlessons.htm)

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

In March of 2014, we re-established compliance with the state to preserve non-profit status, a full board was developed and reported, and good standing with the state of Alaska was completed. All the Alaska agriculture in the classroom resources have been organized and cataloged. Also, the website has been updated with newly developed, various State correlated and uncorrelated lesson plans and activities. AITC lessons were used in the after school programs in the FNSB and are available for statewide use. The link to the national Ag in the Classroom webpage was restored and the page was updated.

Outreach to teachers and the general public regarding Ag in the classroom has been conducted all over the State. Displays were set up at the Tanana Valley State Fair and the Alaska State Fair in Palmer, at Alaska Statewide, Fairbanks and Kenai Farm Bureau Meetings, AACD and SARE Conferences, Tanana Valley Farmers Market, Tribal Alliance of Conservation Districts meeting, Chena Energy Fair, Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. Personal contacts were also made across the state in remote areas including: Barrow, Ruby, Cantwell, Manley, Minto, Nenana and Wasilla. The FSWCD Coordinator attended the regional AITC meeting in Bozeman, MT, in February 2014. A presentation about Ag in the Classroom was given to the Regional 4H Leadership Conference. On Earth day a presentation on Bees and Agriculture was given. A presentation about AKAITC was made at the Statewide Afterschool provider’s conference in Anchorage in November.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- Twenty Agricultural Field/Education Days were held across our state as a result of Ag in the Classroom In-services and workshops.
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- Twenty-eight teachers applied for AITC mini-grants during the fall and spring to fund their hands on learning experiences in their classroom.

Biosketch

State Contact: Melissa Sikes; [fairbanksswcd@gmail.com](mailto:fairbanksswcd@gmail.com)
Arizona 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Groundwater, Watersheds & E-Coli in Water, Cooperative Extension in Graham County

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Cooperative Extension in Arizona has expanded its Agricultural Literacy efforts. Eight out of fifteen counties and one research farm are conducting programs.

- The twenty-fourth Annual Summer Agricultural Institute was held for 27 educators with help from 61 volunteers giving 581 hours of service. Fifteen thousand dollars from 40 agribusinesses and organizations funded the five-day Institute that traveled through four counties. The Food, Land & People curriculum and Arizona Specialty Crop Lessons are provided for free to the participants.
- Volunteers read in 101 classrooms to 2,626 primary students during Arizona Agricultural Literacy Days.
- The new School Garden Food Safety Training program that is a collaboration of Arizona’s Ag Literacy program, AZ Departments of Education, Health Services and Agriculture held six 6-hour workshops for 165 teachers.
- Fifty-nine teachers at two schools continue to utilize the Food Land & People curriculum. The two schools have incorporated agriculture as the theme for the school curriculum.
- A children’s book was published titled Arizona Agriculture: Bee’s Amazing Adventure." This is the first accurate educational book about Arizona agriculture.
- Performance-based assessments and evaluations of the educators participating in the Agricultural Literacy Program indicate an increased knowledge about agriculture and a willingness to use it to teach in their classroom.
- Over 80,000 students have lessons that are hands-on, real-world and educationally appropriate to allow them to understand a concept better in a particular subject and they understand the myriad of specialty crops in Arizona and the health benefits of improving their diet.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
- Six months after training, 60% of workshop participants indicate they taught at least twelve lessons and averaged 12.2 hours of instruction utilizing the lessons provided in the training.
- A follow-up survey indicates that students who work in school gardens increased their consumption of fruits and vegetables. Twenty-two percent of students had never eaten the food prior to planting, 72% have tried the food since planting them and 55% reported liking the food.
- USA Best Books indicated the Arizona Agriculture: Bee’s Amazing Adventure" was an award finalist in the Children’s Educational category.
- The Arizona Ag Literacy Program was a Regional Qualifier in the Awards of Excellence program of the Western Extension Director’s Association Conference.
- One hundred percent of the Summer Agricultural Institute attendees said they would recommend the Institute to other educators and rated the Institute as more valuable" than other in-service programs they have attended, as well as, saying it will make a significant difference" in the way they present agriculture in their classroom.
• Nine school gardens have had their Food Safety Plan certified by AZ Dept. of Health Services after completion of the Food Safety workshop. Four more have been reviewed and need to make corrections and should easily qualify for certification.

• Four hundred sixty-four teachers have new standards-based lessons they incorporate into their current curriculum. These lessons encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, cooperative learning and an understanding of the economic impact of Arizona’s agricultural industry.

• Teachers rate the AITC program giving it at 9.96 out of 10 on whether it was a worthwhile use of class time for their students.

• Students participating in the garden curriculum demonstrated a 53% increase overall in knowledge on pre/post questions about decision making, wise use of resources and healthy choices.

**Biosketch**

State Contact: Monica Pastor; mpastor@cals.arizona.edu

Monica Pastor is a University of Arizona faculty member and is an Associate Programmatic Area Agent for the University of Arizona College of Ag & Life Sciences Cooperative Extension. She is an Ag and Natural Resources Agent with an emphasis on Agricultural Literacy and School Garden Food Safety. Monica has a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and a Master’s in Education.

She works closely with the 15 members of her Ag Literacy Advisory Committee in administering a research-based, scientifically accurate program that utilizes current education pedagogy. Monica has been involved with Ag in the Classroom since her tenure as a Fieldman and Director of Field Services with the Arizona Farm Bureau. When she became Executive Director of the Maricopa County Farm Bureau the Ag in the Classroom program was a priority directive from her volunteer Board. She was instrumental in coordinating meetings of the agriculture community to discuss education efforts by each of the agriculture organizations. A culmination of these meetings resulted in the development of the Summer Agricultural Institute and the formation of the AZ Foundation for Agricultural Literacy. The SAI just completed its twenty-third annual Institute and the Foundation is the funding source for SAI, teacher workshops and curriculum development for the Agricultural Literacy program in Arizona.
Arkansas 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- Forestry Ag Reader (revised)
- Farming for the Future - Sustainability of Arkansas Ag

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
Revised the Forestry Ag Reader to more accurately reflect Arkansas Forestry. Conducted two science focused workshops with ARS centers. Added a second mobile education trailer.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
- 4500 4-12 science students received direct ag science and research instruction because of summer workshop program.
- 100% of teachers that attended science summer workshop conducted research and utilized ag science materials in their classroom.
- 100% increase in number of teachers trained to use ag in their science classes.
- 181% increase in students receiving direct instruction in ag science and research.
- Increased direct student teaching by staff by 50%.

Biosketch
State Contact: Andy Guffey; andrew.guffey@arfb.com

Andy Guffey is the Coordinator of Education and Ag-in-the-Classroom for the Arkansas Farm Bureau, and he has served as the state contact in Arkansas for the last 10 years. In addition to Ag-in-the-Classroom, Andy also works with FFA and 4-H groups across the state in numerous projects. Andy is a board member for Economics Arkansas and the Arkansas Foundation for Agriculture. He also serves as an industry advisor for programs and curriculum for the Arkansas FFA. Before taking over education and Ag-in-the-Classroom, he previously directed the safety education programs for the Arkansas Farm Bureau and worked for Tyson Foods. He holds a B.S. in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University.
California 2014 Report

Classroom Resources

- From STEM” to Plate: Careers in Food Science [http://www.learnaboutag.org/lessonplans/?details=415](http://www.learnaboutag.org/lessonplans/?details=415)
- Imagine this...Stories Inspired by Agriculture (Book of winning student written entries for our writing contest) [http://www.learnaboutag.org/imaginethis/book.php](http://www.learnaboutag.org/imaginethis/book.php)
- Ag in the Classroom Pinterest Page [https://www.pinterest.com/learnaboutag/](https://www.pinterest.com/learnaboutag/)
- What’s Growin’ On? Ag-Bites - Lesson Plans
- Agricultural Fact and Activity Sheets Food Safety From Farm to Fork - Lesson Plans
- Steer Toward STEM - Careers in Animal Agriculture - Lesson Plans

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

This past year, CFAITC developed three new lessons and units including Bon a la Beef, Genes to Jeans II, and From STEM to Plate: Careers in Food Science. The Bon a la Beef lessons connect to student-developed recipes and a student video demonstration of students preparing beef recipes for three different grade levels. All are aligned to current Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

CFAITC partnered with California Certified Organic Farmers to offer ten grants of $1,000 each to educators to teach students about organic practices in agriculture. More than 2,400 students benefited from this program. Taste Test grants of $300 were given to 240 California teachers to support the tasting of California Specialty Crops in their classrooms. Teachers were creative in their approaches to teaching students about specialty crops. 15,000 students from throughout California tasted a wide variety of specialty crops. Twenty five teachers received $1,000 through our Literacy for Life grant program to enhance a current ag literacy project or create a new opportunity for their more than 4,000 students. Examples of projects include Critter Convention, The Ranch comes to Mark Twain, and Food Fanatics. CFAITC partnered with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau to bring agriculture to downtown Sacramento and urban dwellers who do not know much about food production at the Farm to Fork Festival which drew more than 30,000 visitors.

The 2014 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference was held in Santa Cruz County. More than 240 conference participants heard from agriculture leaders via field trips, guest speakers, workshops and networking opportunities that inspired them to take agriculture back to their classrooms.
California Ag in the Classroom continues to update its resources and correlate them to state education standards to maintain its high credibility for accurate and relevant ag literacy materials.

**Major Program Impacts or Outcomes**

- CFAITC’s 12th edition of What’s Growin On? Under the California Sun was distributed to more than 1 million readers.
- Currently, Cream of the Crop, CFAITC’s electronic newsletter, is sent to 14,607 teachers and friends of CFAITC. That is a 5.73% increase from 2013.
- 4,071 California students learned about different aspects of the agricultural industry through CFAITC’s Literacy for Life Grants.
- CFAITC’s website received 61,322 visitors in 2014.
- Nearly 460 student teachers were reached through CFAITC’s University Student Teacher Program. A 52% increase from 2013.
- 15,000 students and 240 teachers learned about California Specialty Crops through Taste Test Grants.
- 2,452 students learned about organic practices in agriculture through Look at Agriculture... Organically! Grants.
- CFAITC participated in Sacramento Regional Farm to Fork Activities. 30,000 people attended the Farm to Fork Festival. 250 people attended Farm to Fork University.
- 5,965 teachers received CFAITC lesson plans and materials while attending state wide conferences. 1,200 teachers were reached at the National Science Teachers Associations Regional Conference.
- 1,944 teachers received materials and/or training on CFAITC resources through County Farm Days, Teacher Appreciation Dinners, and Teacher Agriculture Seminars.
- CFAITC’s Facebook page currently has 2,318 fans, which is a 9.1 percent increase from the previous year. Through Facebook we share updates, program details, resources, photos, articles, information and upcoming events.
- 34,395 students and 6,556 teachers learned about agriculture through CFAITC’s support of County Farm Bureau Programs.

**Biosketch**

State Contact: Judy Culbertson; judy@learnaboutag.org

Judy Culbertson, a 5th generation pear grower, grew up in Courtland, a small town just outside of Sacramento, California. Following high school, Judy graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Business Management.

In 1980, Judy joined the Agriculture in the Classroom program. Today she serves as the executive director for the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Judy hopes that through the Foundation, every student can gain an appreciation and curiosity for learning about where their food and fiber come from.

The dedication and belief Judy possesses in the value of agriculture and education does not stop with her role with the Foundation. For the last 34 years, Judy has represented the Foundation on a variety of local, statewide and national boards and committees along with dedicated involvement within her own community. Judy is the past chair of the California State Fair Ag Advisory Committee and CFAITC is the co-chair of California Agriculture Day, located at the state capitol. She is also a member of the local Delta High School Ag Council and past president of the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society.
Colorado 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Colorado Readers on the following topics:

- Let’s Eat (nutrition reader)
- Use of Soil in Mined Land Reclamation
- If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.
- Renewable Energy
- Conservation = Wise Use
- Water - Our Most Precious Resource

www.growingyourfuture.com/programs/colorado_reader/index.html

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

- Distributed Colorado Readers on the following topics:
  - Let’s Eat (nutrition reader)
  - Use of Soil in Mined Land Reclamation
  - If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.
  - Renewable Energy
  - Conservation = Wise Use
  - Water - Our Most Precious Resource
- Presented information about agriculture to 500 science teachers at the Colorado Science Convention and to 1800 teacher at the Reading Conference. Plus sponsored ag presenters a this conference. 60 teachers took our Food, Fiber & More Summer Institute.
- Distributed CFA Comic called Watershed Defender.
  - Sent out 3 E-newsletters highlight new materials and resources about agriculture.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- 45,000 fourth and fifth grade students received information about agriculture through the Colorado Reader series six times during the school year.
- Produced 4 issues of the Colorado Kids that was distributed via the Denver Post. Reached over 1 million Colorado residents.
Biosketch
State Contact: Bette Blinde; blinde@growingyourfuture.com

A graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in history education. Bette Blinde is the Executive Director of the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture. She has held the position from the time the foundation was formed in 1991. As Executive Director of Colorado Foundation for Agriculture she is responsible for the production and distribution of educational materials about agriculture and natural resources. This includes publishing the Colorado Reader series. Topics published include: Livestock; Dairy; Integrated Pest Management; Corn; Wheat; Water; Forests; Wildlife; Grocery; Produce; Recycling and Cooperatives; Food Safety; Protecting Our Soil; Colorado Ranching and many more. She has also written activity books on Wildlife Management and Colorado’s Wool and Sheep Industry. She works with The Denver Post Newspaper in Education program providing resources and materials for Colorado Kids Page and she writes their Stock Show curriculum. She is also responsible for Colorado’s Agriculture in the Classroom program which includes classroom presentations, farm day programs, AgriCULTURE in the Classroom Summer Institute and water festivals. She works with a variety of agriculture, wildlife, environmental groups and their board of directors along with working with educators and curriculum coordinators from across the state. She was inducted into Colorado’s Agriculture Hall of Fame.
Connecticut 2014 Report

Classroom Resources

- Read Across Connecticut The Beeman by Laurie Krebs and Valeria Cis.
- Created a set of sequencing cards for classroom teachers. From Hive to Honey Sequencing Cards: Peek from the hive, Seek out nectar, Feed the hive and the babies, Fan the honey Smoke the hive Calm the Bees, Take the comb and get honey, Bottle the honey Yum.
- For educator distribution: Resource Guide for Bees, Insects, Pollinators; Honey Bee Book Mark; Art Activity - Coloring Page; Vocabulary page, Bee Trivia Page

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

Four hundred, seventy-five volunteers took part in the reading event. An estimated eleven thousand seven-hundred, sixty students in 398 schools benefited from this event.

During 2014, twenty-eight educational events took place. More than 232,000 children, youth and adults gleaned valuable knowledge, took part in hands on activities and accepted handouts with important information.

Over 60 sponsors made these programs possible.

Food services directors actively involved in the Farm to School initiative were invited to have Ag in the Classroom volunteers provide educational events at their schools. Children learned about Connecticut farm commodities, their nutritional value, and product availability at seasonal farmers’ markets. Literature from the Connecticut Department Agriculture was presented in packets for children to share with their families. Support for the Connecticut Farm to School Program, Connecticut Farmers’ Markets and support for Connecticut Farmland Preservation has grown tremendously.

During 2014 thousands of visits were made to the CTAEF website. Our printed materials, distributed at various events invites individuals to our website. We will continue to upgrade this site to serve as a link for agricultural resources for children, youth, educators and the general population.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

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Biosketch
State Contact: Eleanore Provencal; hear3043@yahoo.com

I embrace the opportunity to serve my community and my state. I have been actively serving as the Connecticut Coordinator for Ag in the Classroom since March 2005, this is my 10th anniversary.

I am a college-trained educator holding Connecticut certificates in Health and Physical Education, grades K-12; Special Education, grades K-12; Adult Education; and Administration.

I have earned a B.S. in Health and Physical Education, cum laude from Brooklyn College and a 6th year certificate in Health and Physical Education from the same institution. I earned a M.S. in Educational Administration from Pace University, New York and an additional M.S. from Southern Connecticut State University, Connecticut in Special Education.

Without reservation I look forward to implementing agricultural education programs. Seldom has a day gone by without having the opportunity to speak with an administrator, teacher, food service director or community leader regarding Connecticut agriculture. To date our program has reached several thousand individuals in the Nutmeg state. Our media coverage has helped reach others. Organizations in our state collaborate with us to widen our reach bringing agriculture education to many. We have had and continue to have the support of the Connecticut Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, the UCONN Cooperative Extension System and many agribusinesses in our state. All recognize the outstanding effort the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation is putting forth.

I have a passion for bringing agriculture education to our citizens. I plan to continue volunteering my time to see to it that agricultural education programs stay viable and are accomplished. I am proud to represent Connecticut as the Coordinator for Ag in the Classroom under the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation.
Delaware 2009 Report

Classroom Resources
None reported for 2010-2014

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
None reported for 2010-2014

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
None reported for 2010-2014

Biosketch
State Contact: Judith Leith; Judith.leith@state.de.us

District of Columbia 2007 Report

Classroom Resources
None reported for 2008-2014

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
None reported for 2008-2014

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
None reported for 2008-2013

Biosketch
State/District Contact: Vacant
Classroom Resources

- Gardening for Nutrition - Gardening for Nutrition is the second in FAITC’s school garden curricula series. In addition to information about how to start and maintain a school garden, and find funding to pay for the garden, it include 14 K-12 lesson plans that helps teachers tie the garden to classroom instruction. The lessons are interdisciplinary and cover reading, writing, math, science, nutrition, art, physical education and more. It debuted in late 2014, and is the featured curriculum at teacher workshops/farm tours around the state. To view a copy visit http://faitc.org/teachers/gardening-for-nutrition/ In addition, FAITC distributed about 1,000 copies of its first school garden curriculum Gardening for Grades in 2014.

- Teacher Workshops/Farm Tours - FAITC held five regional teacher workshops and farm tours and six local school garden workshops around the state, and had waiting lists for each one. Altogether, 433 teachers attended the workshops, who will reach an estimated 19,000 students.

- Grants - FAITC distributed nearly 200 $500 and $1,000 school garden mini grants in addition to its Teacher Grant and Volunteer Grant programs. Teachers who receive grant money are required to present at least one lesson from the school garden curricula and submit and pre and post-test classroom average from assessments at the end of each lesson.

- Florida Farms at School - FAITC, in partnership with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, developed the sixth in a series of Agriculture Literacy Day books that educate K-5 students about Florida agriculture. The 2014 book, Florida Farms at School, showcased agriculture-related programs already in schools namely Ag in the Classroom, FFA, 4-H, Farm to School and school gardens. Altogether, FAITC’s 1,800 readers read in 4,000 classrooms involving 81,000 elementary students.

- About 50 new and existing lessons developed by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom over the years were updated, re-correlated and posted to the new website so they’re searchable by grade level (K-12), subject area (language arts, math, science and more) and commodity (beef, dairy, citrus and more.) Visit www.faitc.org/teachers/

- Growing up Healthy with Food from Florida Activity newspaper - Revised eight-page student activity newspaper with MyPlate information. You can view it at http://faitc.org/teacher-activity-newspapers/

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

After three years in development, Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. debuted the second curricula in its school garden series called Gardening for Nutrition. In addition to school garden guidance, it features 14 K-12 lessons that use nutrition and garden concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, nutrition, art, music and physical education to reach a broader range of general education teachers. In addition, it’s a new website where all of its lesson plans and activities are searchable by grade level (K-12), subject area and commodity, and its teacher workshop/farm tours have very popular and have resulted in waiting lists for each one. Teachers receive lessons in the morning related to commodities they see grown and harvested in the afternoon on nearby farms. It also wrote the sixth and last of its Agriculture Literacy Day book series called “Florida Farms at School.” It began work on a new series of non-fiction Agriculture Literacy Day books called “Drive Through Florida.” The first one will debut in 2015 and covers Florida’s livestock and poultry industries, and features an animated red truck named “Ole Red” who takes students on a ride through the state. FAITC decided to launch a non-fiction series using photographs rather than illustrations to tie into Common Core’s emphasis on “reading for content” and “reading non-fiction text.” Each year’s book will feature a different aspect of the Florida agriculture industry.
**Major Program Impacts or Outcomes**

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (FAITC) estimates it reached more than 5,400 teachers and 160,000 students in 2014. It reached an additional 19,815 teachers and 396,300 students with materials orders and hits to its website during 2014. The organization believes there is growing awareness and interest in the program by teachers and volunteers. FAITC continued to visit curriculum coordinators in some of the state’s largest school districts in 2014 to provide them with sample lessons and information about the grant programs, curricula and materials it offers general education teachers in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition, it developed and distributed new materials, allowing it to grow the number of new teachers it introduced to its program. Interest in programs such as Florida Agriculture Literacy Day continued to grow and helped boost FAITC numbers as well. In addition, popularity of its teacher and volunteer grants programs grew in 2014.

**Biosketch**

State Contact: Lisa Gaskalla; gaskalla@ufl.edu

**Experience**

September 2003: Present Executive Director; Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.; Gainesville, FL
August 2003 - July 1999: Executive Director; Polk County Farm Bureau; Bartow, FL
July 1999 - March 1997: Public Affairs Manager; Florida Citrus Mutual; Lakeland, FL
March 1997 - July 1992: Business Writer; The Tampa Tribune; Tampa, FL
July 1992 - September 1989: Business Writer; The Ledger; Lakeland, FL
September 1989 - July 1985: Business Writer; Orlando Business Journal; Orlando, FL
July 1985 - June 1984: Cops, Medical Writer; Today newspaper; Cocoa, FL

**Education**

Fall 1979 - Spring 1984: Bachelor’s Degree - Journalism; University of Florida; Gainesville
Georgia 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- 2015 Art Contest Calendar (which highlighted careers in agriculture)
- "Without Farmers, Georgia Can’t Grow" agriculture DVD (video is available at www.gfb.org)
- Georgia Commodities Map
- Lesson Plan and Teacher Resource Booklets for teachers (2 revised)
- Careers in Agriculture poster, brochure, and Ag Career Bingo game

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
In 2014 we held 7 one-day Educator Workshop & Farm Experience teacher training programs sponsored and coordinated through the county Farm Bureaus. We reached 128 educators from 8 counties and 28 schools. It increased agricultural literacy with the teachers and created or improved the relationship between the county Farm Bureau volunteers and their schools. This resulted in counties doing additional activities in the classroom with teachers.

Our annual Educational Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Women’s Leadership Committee, places primary emphasis on agricultural literacy. One of the four concurrent workshops is presented by the Georgia Excellence in Educating About Agriculture award winner. In 2014 our winner was Dennis Peavy who was also one of the national EEAA award winners. Two workshops were conducted by WLC volunteers: one on agriculture career activities for the classroom and the other on general ag literacy classroom activities.

Ag literacy is the primary focus of the Women’s Leadership Committee. In 2014, they chose to take a new direction with their booth at the annual Farm Bureau convention and displayed a pumpkin in the mid-stages of decomposition. The decomposition progression was displayed in photographs on the exhibit board. They had a lesson plan which they handed out to those who came by the booth.

County Farm Bureaus are our greatest asset for agricultural literacy as they visit classrooms using the materials we introduce at the Educational Leadership Conference, provide through special promotions, and from attending the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. They read books, build school gardens, do activities with the children, and provide resources for teachers. They conduct the high school art contest and the middle essay contest.

2014 is a year of transition as we established the GFB Foundation for Agriculture. This will enable us to expand our program and develop more materials and curriculum.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
The largest impact comes from our county Farm Bureaus who spend countless people-hours doing classroom presentations, middle school essay contest, high school art contest, conducting Farm Days at Schools and on farms, providing educational materials, and assisting with school projects. With 159 counties, GFB volunteers reach about 40,000 students each year.

The one-day Educator Workshop/Farm Experience reached 126 teachers in 2014. As we roll out our newly formed GFB Foundation for Agriculture, we will be developing a more comprehensive teacher training program. In the meantime, in addition to the workshop listed above, we are involved in organizations such as the Farm to School Alliance where we did teacher training at their conference reaching about 45 teachers.
Biosketch
State Contact: Donna Rocker; dhrocker@gfb.org

Donna Hellwig Rocker has been with Georgia Farm Bureau since 1986, primarily coordinating the Georgia Agriculture in the Classroom program. In 1999, the GFB Women’s Leadership Committee was added to her responsibilities. Since 1999, the Women’s Leadership Committee has greatly increased their focus on youth education and agricultural literacy.

Donna received an associate’s degree from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and a B.A. in Psychology from Georgia College & State University. She received her Master’s in Adult Education from The University of Georgia in 2012.

She was part of the team to develop the AITC Consortium and has served as a regional representative and secretary for that organization.
Hawaii 2009 Report

Classroom Resources
None reported 2009-2014

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
None reported 2009-2014

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
None reported 2009-2014

Biosketch
State Contact: Naomi Kanehiro; nkanehir@hawaii.edu
Classroom Resources
We continued our cooperative agreement with the Department of Education in providing the commodity posters into school lunch programs featuring the use of Idaho products.

This year a special project was funded by the Farm to School program to develop curriculum and lesson plans (matched to Common Core) that highlights Idaho’s top ten edible food commodities. The curriculum and lessons were presented during the 2014 summer workshops by teachers who were on the research/writing team for the project.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
We continued to offer our “sponsor a teacher” program for the summer weeklong tour. This year we had a total of 19 sponsors and some willing to sponsor more than one teacher. We had a number of first time sponsors. This year we offered our most popular tour – The Famous Snake River Smile Tour where we follow the Snake River from southwestern to southeastern Idaho.

We not only expanded our website (thanks to the help of USU) but we also began using Face Book as a social media contact for our teachers and friends to AITC. We developed a new logo and returned to the distribution of an annual report to tell about our programs.

The agreement with Agrium for the Seed Survivor Educational Trailer was very positive for the region of Idaho where the trailer traveled. The trailer has been offered to us again for 2015 and we are scheduled for Southwestern Idaho where our largest school districts are located.

At the annual meeting of AITC we invited in the local RAM dealership who has partnered with us through the NAITC RAM Ag Certification program. A new wall has been developed in their dealership that promotes Idaho agriculture. They have replaced many of their activities for children in their customer waiting area with ag related activities and educational materials. We see this as a growing and developing relationship. To our knowledge two more dealerships in our state have signed on for the program. We hope to cultivate those relationships after they have completed the certification program.

We saw strong growth in our Ag license plate program. We did a mass mailing to all county assessors with information about the AITC program and feel there has been a direct correlation and increase in sales due to these efforts.

We continued the Farm To School Program in Idaho. This joint effort between the Department of Education and AITC has resulted in a federal grant that allowed us to sponsor some chef and food service tours.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
The impact of Ag Expo’s is growing each year. We have developed a form that help groups who want to have expo’s to complete for the solicitation of help, financial assistance and materials. The program started primarily with FFA Chapters and this year we added two new groups with the North Idaho Fair sponsoring a field day expo for 5th graders and a combined three county Extension effort for National Ag Day. Idaho AITC staff have become the resource coordinators for all commodity groups in Idaho. Materials for various grade levels are placed in our office and when requests come we compile the teacher and student packet for each group based upon what they will be teaching. We have also been asked to advise on “teaching stations” for several of these expos. This coordinating role has allowed AITC to have a broad
exposure, recruit teachers into our summer workshops and tours. The impact of the Expo’s is having a community resource effort to teach the importance of agriculture. Once the door is opened, relationships developed we are hearing stories of agencies, agribusinesses and farmers/ranchers returning to assist in student education about agriculture after the expo is over.

The Food Producers of Idaho Natural Resource/Agriculture Pavilion was at two fairs this year with an estimated attendance of over 50,000 visitors. Building on the USDA NRCS theme of “The Year of Soil” we created new hands on activities for children to learn about “secrets in their soil”. Educational materials were also made available. Through the “educational approach” we are able to elevate important public policy issues that are in our state using the medium of children having a good time and learning about food and fiber. Parents benefit also. The Pavilion remains to be very interactive and has an appeal to all ages. Visitors from out of state to the fair are envious of the impact the agriculture industry has on such a wide variety of people in such a short amount of time.

Biosketch
State Contact: Rick Waitley; rick@amgidaho.com

The Idaho AITC program is housed at Association Management Group (AMG) in Meridian, Idaho. AMG provides association management and legislative lobbying for over 37 different agriculture groups in Idaho. Rick Waitley, State AITC Director is President of AMG. Waitley grew up on an Idaho farm and received his BS from the University of Idaho in AgEd. Waitley taught high school agriculture before joining the staff of the National FFA in Alexandria, VA. Waitley returned to Idaho and worked for the Idaho Dairymen’s Association and in 1977 became a registered lobbyist.

Waitley’s first contract with Idaho AITC was in January 1994. Waitley is married to a retired Kindergarten teacher who taught for 35 years. Rick Waitley received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Agriculture in the area of Education/Advocacy in 1998. Waitley serves on a variety of boards and commissions in Idaho and has received numerous awards and recognition for his investment in Idaho agriculture. On July 1, 2009 Waitley was asked to serve as Executive Director for the National Ag in the Classroom Organization and continues to hold that position at this time.
Illinois 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- Agriculture in the Cafeteria–poster series and lessons combined classroom and cafeteria. [http://www.agintheclassroom.com/Agriculture%20in%20the%20Cafeteria/Agriculture_Cafeteria.shtml](http://www.agintheclassroom.com/Agriculture%20in%20the%20Cafeteria/Agriculture_Cafeteria.shtml)
- Have Book will Travel (IL 2013 Summer Reading Program Companion) [http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/lesson_booklets.shtml](http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/lesson_booklets.shtml)
- Claws, Paws, Hooves, Wings and Things..IAITC’s Creature Feature of Reading! (IL 2014 Summer Reading Program Companion) [http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/lesson_booklets.shtml](http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/lesson_booklets.shtml)

Lessons
What the World Eats (from the HUNGRY PLANET) book. We use a number of lessons and extenders to go with this.

A Slice of Soil (slicing up the apple). We use a number of lessons and extenders depending grade/subject area.

Ginning Cotton (from Growing a Nation). Because IL doesn’t grow cotton this is a fascinating activity for our students and teachers.

Beanie Baby--we combine Beanie Baby and Kernel Kid with activities about IL Commodities corn and Soybeans (Great icebreaker, introduces books, we use it to do inquiry based activities)

Apple Chain--again depending on age, subject matter--easy to get people to talk about apples (almost always pair with the Science in your Shopping Cart page about apple shelf life)

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
- Continued efforts in making AITC easily integrated into County Membership, Promotions, and Legislative Areas. Working specifically with our Illinois Farm Families program linking consumers to farmers.
- Provided 1,472 hours of Professional Development to teachers across the state (equal to 190 7.75 hours of in-service training!!)
- 56 City of Chicago Teachers participated in our Adopt a Classroom program.
- Continued efforts to measure student and teacher perceptions and retention of AITC Efforts using Summer Ag Institute and Pre-Post Data.
- Continue releasing new materials that are sensitive to gender, race and impairments.
Continued to offer Graduate Credit for our Summer Agricultural Institutes through our unique partnership with Illinois Universities including Northern, Eastern, Southern, Aurora, Quincy College and Parkland Community College

Provided training, resources and presentation to 31,299 teachers across the state

56 Pre Service Workshops conducted for 1308 Pre-Service Teachers.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- 83% of Summer Ag Institute Graduates incorporate Agriculture into lessons on a daily or weekly basis AFTER attending an intensive training course on agriculture.
- 76% of Illinois teachers who have completed a Summer Agriculture Institute list Corn as the top agriculture topic taught in classrooms. Followed by environment (68%), water and apples (64%), Natural Resources and Soybeans and Pumpkins (60%), plants (58%), and Conservation (55%).
- 99% of IL Teachers Strongly Agree or Agree that Illinois Learning standards and or Common Core/Next Generation Science Standards can be met through incorporating Agriculture, and that Agriculture enhances the curriculum. 99% believe that agriculture can be taught in any subject area, and that agriculture fits the needs of elementary students. 88% of our teachers strongly DISAGREE with the statement there is no future in Agriculture, and 98% agree and strongly agree that agriculture has a skilled, highly trained work force.
- In pre-post questions after our intensive training courses, teachers have an attitudinal shift of 33% to the positive (58% pre, 91% post) in the statement that farmers and ranchers are computer literate and a 26% increase (71% pre, 97% post) in the question about farmers providing safe foods.
- 98% of our teachers believe that students benefit greatly from learning more about agriculture.
- 94% of teachers’ surveyed plan on teaching various careers related to agriculture after learning more about those careers compared to 39% pre-survey. (55 point increase)

Biosketch

State Contact: Kevin Daugherty; kdaugherty@ilfb.org

Kevin Daugherty is the Education Director for the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program. Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) is a program that provides educational resources, training and support for classroom teachers throughout the state related to agriculture. Through this program IAITC strives to increase understanding of the food and fiber system for teachers and students across the state. The program also works to make agriculture advocates of students, teachers and parents. IAITC began correlating to the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards in 2013.

Kevin served as the 2003-2004 President of the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium of State Contacts, (Now National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization) Kevin and the Illinois AITC Program hosted the 2001 National AITC Conference in Chicago, and co-hosted the 2009 National AITC Conference in St. Louis. He currently serves as the NAITC Committee Chair for National Conferences.

Kevin has been with Illinois Farm Bureau® since April of 2000. Prior to joining the Farm Bureau® staff he had experience in publishing, training and development and as an award winning junior high history teacher in central Illinois. A native of Oakland, Illinois Daugherty holds a BS in Secondary Education from the University of Illinois, and a MS in Adult Education from Eastern Illinois University. He and his wife, Katherine, have three children and live in LeRoy, Illinois, where he serves as President of the LeRoy CUSD #2 Board of Education.
Indiana 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
The Indiana AITC program continues the process of building a strong program for volunteers and better meet the needs of Indiana schools and teachers. Although no new resources were developed this year, many popular lessons were aligned with updated Indiana education standards. Two bulk book orders were coordinated for county Farm Bureaus to purchase books to distribute in their communities. We continue to work with our network of volunteers and expanding teacher network to get accurate ag information into classrooms by providing books and materials to schools.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
2014 was a transitional year for Indiana AITC. A complete revision was made to our volunteer reporting and recognition program and 2014 marked the first full year for the revisions. The annual AITC workshop format was updated to provide more content knowledge to attendees as well as increased marketing to teachers and Extension Educators. Through a grant received through the Indiana State Dept. of Ag we have been able to expand our training opportunities to include 3 regional educator workshops in addition to the volunteer trainings conducted around the state. The grant will also fund the development of an Indiana Ag Mag™ and the distribution of literacy materials to schools in each of Indiana’s 92 counties in an Ag Literacy Toolbox.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
Knowledge of the Ag in the Classroom program increased substantially throughout the state through direct mailing and email blasts sent to promote the regional INAITC educator workshops.

Biosketch
State Contact: Julie Taylor; JTaylor@infarmbureau.org

Julie Taylor is the State Contact for Indiana. Prior to joining Farm Bureau as the Education Coordinator, Julie taught junior and senior high school Family & Consumer Science for 10 1/2 years. In addition to AITC, Julie’s also tasked with coordinating the 4,500 square foot INFB State Fair exhibit at the Indiana State Fair as well as trade shows and other outreach programs. She has held this position for 2 years.
Classroom Resources

- Watershed Decisions Iowa
- Iowa Ag Today
- Agriculture and Augmented Reality
- Hungry Caterpillar
- Farm Animals For Beginners
- Let’s Mix Up Some Soil!
- Iowa Soil - An Invaluable Resource
- Mapping Iowa Agriculture
- Topsy-Turvy Soybeans

All available on: [http://www.iowaagliteracy.org/educator-resources.html](http://www.iowaagliteracy.org/educator-resources.html)

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Initiative is the central resource for educators and volunteers who want to teach students about the breadth and global significance of Iowa agriculture. IALF believes it is important for all Iowans to understand the essential role agriculture has in their lives. IALF supports existing agriculture education efforts such as FFA, 4-H and Ag in the Classroom. IALF was created through a joint effort of agricultural stakeholders, including the Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Silos and Smokestacks Foundation, DuPont Pioneer, GROWMARK, and the Iowa Beef Industry Council. For more information visit IALF online at [www.IowaAgLiteracy.org](http://www.IowaAgLiteracy.org), on Facebook, and Twitter.

- IALF maintained a regular blog at [http://iowaagliteracy.wordpress.com](http://iowaagliteracy.wordpress.com).
- Established an Agriculture Education Advisory Council to ensure quality of materials.
- Completed and distributed 42,000 copies of student magazine - Iowa Ag Today. Hosted county coordinator’s best practice sharing workshop and training and more than 70 individuals attended.
- Established a quarterly newsletter.
- 323 teachers applied to for a Teacher Supplement Grant.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

75% of county contacts said they would actively promote IALF resources to their schools and contacts. 42,000 fourth and fifth grade students received agricultural instruction through the student reader - Ag Today.

Biosketch

State Contact: Will Fett; [wfett@iowaagliteracy.org](mailto:wfett@iowaagliteracy.org)

Will Fett is the Executive Director of the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation. He previously worked for the National FFA Foundation in Indianapolis, Ind. and prior to that was an agricultural educator in Montana. Along with Cindy Hall, education program manager, he directs and facilitates the Ag in the Classroom program. In this position, he builds partnerships with Iowa agribusiness and individuals to fund the programs and is responsible for the marketing, public relations, and the strategic plan of the organization. [wfett@iowaagliteracy.org](mailto:wfett@iowaagliteracy.org) Agriculture Literacy Foundation Executive Director.
Kansas 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
We created several lesson plans related to major crops grown in Kansas. These include:

- Kernel Kids - a wheat germination activity
- Poptastic - a grain sorghum activity; health and nutrition
- Packing Peanuts Go Green - a grain sorghum activity; science, polymers from starch; renewable resource; more biodegradable than those from fossil fuels.
- Corn Calculations; math, mean median, mode, minimum and maximum
- Water Connections - Water conservation activity; Earth Science and Environment
- We updated Graze like a Cow and Estimation Game
- We partnered with Kansas Department of Agriculture to create a new Kids Connection Water Ag magazine with a focus on water in Kansas and water conservation.

All of the resources listed above are on our website [www.ksagclassroom.org](http://www.ksagclassroom.org)

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

- Created new lesson plans for teachers.
- We instructed 118 teachers and volunteers during Be AgWise on soil science in partnership with Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas Association of Environmental Educators. Be AgWise Teacher workshops had a focus on soil health and management. 118 participants in 5 workshops around the state.
- Created a new delivery system for ag literacy called A+STEM. Half day professional development training for teachers customized to curriculum needs identified by the school district curriculum development personnel. 60 classroom teachers attended A+STEM professional development training.
- 55 pre-service science teachers attended A+STEM 3 hour professional development training.
- Created a new delivery system for summer institutes called Connect2Ag. A two year model of adopting a school district; delivering two years of summer institute 1. Connecting Your Classroom to Kansas Agriculture and 2. From Farm to Plate. Community based model with local ag partners and presenters as well as local funders. Creates a cohort group that will support Ag in the Classroom well after the two year training! Partners include the local community college ag educators as well as college youth and the local high school youth in ag programs.
- We continue to provide resources and training to the teachers who are part of the growing number of ag charter schools in Kansas.
- 100 pre-service teachers at K-State Education Symposium learned about major crops in Kansas using lessons created in 2013 and 2014.
- Summer Session Institutes: 55 Kansas teachers received professional development hours or graduate credit hours after attending week long summer session courses: Connecting Agriculture to the Classroom; and Plants Have a Place in the Classroom.
- Created Teacher Feature for our website using testimonials from master teachers in Kansas who are incorporating ag in their classrooms. Each teacher provides insight into incorporation of ag in the classroom and shared their favorite lesson plan.
- Updated website coding so we can track use of lesson plans using Google analytics.
- Created a Constant Contact email group of teachers who receive featured lesson plans monthly.
Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- 100% of 29 teachers attending the summer course indicated they would incorporate lesson plans modeled.
- One graduate created a Harvest Math day in her elementary school. It was used as a model for another elementary school.
- 100% of 29 teachers completing the summer graduate course generated high quality lesson plans as a part of their coursework.
- 1611 youth and 75 elementary teachers increased their ag literacy while attending Speak Out for Agriculture assemblies in urban Kansas City schools.
- Reports from the three Ag charter schools in Kansas who sent much of their staff for training during past summer courses show impact by providing good factual resources and lesson plan ideas that they expanded on when creating a total school curriculum that uses agriculture as a tool to teach the core subject matter areas. We now have six schools in Kansas who are pursuing the delivery method of project-based learning using agriculture as the teaching tool. They are following the successful model of the Walton Rural Center in the Newton School District.
- Teachers who have attended our summer courses and then applied for the Teacher of the Year indicated numerous impacts in how they were able to successfully design curriculum that allowed them to incorporate teaching of agriculture into core curriculum areas.
- 98% of Ag-Wise teachers and volunteers returning for a third or fourth year report the usefulness of the lesson plans correlated to Kansas Curriculum standards.
- A majority of teachers attending Water Festivals and Ag Days with their students report the Natural Resource subject matter on watersheds and on soil development and conservation is helpful when taking state assessment standardized tests.
- Teachers who attended Kansas Assoc. of Teachers of Science (KATS) camp download plant science curriculum, plant parts posters and plant growth cycle posters as well as What’s in My Shopping Basket from Soybeans, Corn, Wheat, Milo, and Sunflowers.

Biosketch
State Contact: Cathy Musick; ksfac@k-state.edu

An Undergrad degree from K-State in Agriculture Science
A Master’s degree from K-State in Adult and Continuing Education
14 years’ experience as an Extension Educator in four counties in Kansas. Subject matter areas were Agriculture, Youth Development, and Rural Development
I have been with KFAC since February of 2006
Kentucky 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Agriculture Adventures is a mobile program that provides an assembly and hands-on activities about agricultural, science, and environmental concepts. Aligned to meet Kentucky Common Core Standards for assessment. This engaging program provides learning experiences for up to 500 elementary students per day.

Agriculture Adventure includes a high energy assembly show and a gym full of hands-on experiences for your students and aligns with Kentucky Core Academic Standards:
- New Generation Science Standards
- Practical Living - Nutrition, Consumer Decisions
- Vocational Studies
- Social Studies

http://www.kyagadventures.com/

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
More than 45,000 students participated in Ag Day programs last year. These one-day events consisting of 12-15 hands on stations highlight different Kentucky commodities and modern agricultural practices.

Over 325 educators participated in regional and local teacher conferences, these one-day all-expense paid training program available to all PS-12 teachers. A maximum of six hours of professional development credit was offered to attendees. These programs were led by the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture operates two 44-foot long Mobile Agriculture Science Activity Centers, which travel full-time across the state to provide agriculture science lessons at school stops. The trailers have 10 activity workstations for K-5th grade students that align with state standards. Nearly 58,000 students were reached in 2014. Two new trailers were added last year. A third trailer will be added in 2015.

County volunteers were encouraged to help celebrate National Ag Day by reading agricultural oriented books through prior arranged appointments. Books were recommended which portrayed an accurate picture of American agriculture. Seventy counties with hundreds of volunteers reached thousands of children through this project.

We continue to support volunteers statewide through new and unique educational training opportunities each year. Over 550 volunteers received training throughout the year on how they can expand and initiate grassroots educational efforts.

An Executive Director was hired for Kentucky Ag and the Environment in the Classroom, Inc. This contracted position will allow Kentucky Ag Literacy to better coordinate its efforts.

Cooperative relationships and education efforts among the major agriculture, environmental and conservation groups are on-going resulting in maximizing of available funds and education efforts.
Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- Nearly 60,000 students participated in the Mobile Agriculture Science Activity Center presentations.
- More than 45,000 students participated in Ag Day programs during 2014.
- Over 325 in-service Teachers participated in AITC Processional Development in 2014.
- More than 80,000 students from 120 Kentucky counties participated in the 2014 Conservation Tabloid Poster & Essay Contest. Farm Bureau provided the primary sponsorship, planning and tabloid design.
- Over 1,000 students participated the Department of Agriculture’s Ag Day poster/essay contest.

Biosketch
State Contact: Scott Christmas; Scott.Christmas@kyfb.com

Scott Christmas currently serves as the Kentucky Farm Bureau Ag Education, Women & Young Farmer Programs Director. Mr. Christmas is responsible for coordinating education and leadership development for Kentucky Farm Bureau women and young farmers. These activities include the implementation of Farm Bureau policy goals and objectives with a major emphasis on all agricultural literacy efforts.

Mr. Christmas involvement with Ag in the Classroom and other agricultural literacy programs stretches over the past twenty-one years. He previously worked for thirteen years with the Florida Farm Bureau and is currently in his ninth year with the Kentucky Farm Bureau.

He is a 1989 graduate of the University of Florida where he earned his Bachelors of Science degree in Food and Resource Economics. He and his wife Kim have five boys and reside in Mt. Washington, Kentucky.
Louisiana 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- Three new E-News issues of Sow, Grow and Know Newsletter; http://www.aitcla.org/pages/newsletter/
- Farming the Core Resource Unit
- Lesson Plan: A Tough Nut to Crack
- Lesson Plan: Farm Babies
- Mapping Louisiana Agriculture Lesson Unit Revision
- Plant Parts Foldable Make & Take

All are available on the Louisiana website: http://www.aitcla.org/teacher-resources/lesson-plans/

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Each year, LA AITC host a series of teacher workshops across the state to provide educators with material needed to integrate agriculture into their existing curriculum. Lesson plans correlated to the Common Core State Standards, Louisiana Grade-Level-Expectations, hands-on activities, new resources and ideas are all provided at the comprehensive seminars. A total of 15 workshops were held in 2014.

Three electronic issues of our Sow, Grow and Know educator newsletter were developed and distributed to 500 classroom teachers.

We continue with our Outstanding Teacher Award. The winning teacher receives an expense paid trip to the National AITC Conference, $500 award, and an iPad.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
- 353 educators were trained at AITC workshops this year; these teachers have a direct impact on over 23,000 students
- 64% of teachers trained were new comers to the program; 23% were pre-service teachers
- 99% of teacher attending a workshop in 2014 ranked the workshop as extremely beneficial and said they would use at least one lesson from the workshop in their classes.

Biosketch
State Contact: Lynda Danos; lyndad@lfbf.org

Lynda Danos has been the Ag in the Classroom State Coordinator for Louisiana Farm Bureau for 15 years.

Prior to joining the LFBF staff, Lynda taught high school physical science and biology. A native of Thibodaux, Louisiana, Lynda holds a B.S. in science education from Nicholls State University. She is also a graduate of the LSU AgCenter Agricultural Leadership Development Program. Lynda has been active on the National level with the Ag in the Classroom National Consortium, where she has served as the Southern Region Representative and hosted the National Conference in 2007. Lynda is married to Willie Danos. They reside is Iowa, Louisiana, where they farm 2,500 acres of grain, crawfish and beef cattle. Lynda and Willie have 3 sons.
Maine 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Continued to expand Teach ME About Food and Farms Agricultural Lesson site searchable by State and Common Core Standard, topic, grade and subject [www.TeachMEFoodandFarms.org](http://www.TeachMEFoodandFarms.org)
Completed and published Aquaculture for ME, 28 page Book and 20 page Activity Book for National Ag Week Volunteer Readers Program. Funded by Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Grant, Maine Aquaculture Association and our Ag License Plate.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
In 2014 our major accomplishments:

- The “Teach ME about Food and Farms” Professional Development website, utilizing our lesson site with 75 aligned lessons and over 200,000 visits, was completed and launched. This lesson site has been a project of MAITC and our partners, funded through a 3-year SPECA Grant that finished in 2014.
- The continued series of Maine Ag Literacy materials was pleased to add aquaculture to our offerings for PreK to 4th grade. All 4 books are available on the lesson site for use on iPad or Smart Board and are read to 600+ classrooms during Ag Literacy Week in March.
- The MAITC Grant program continues to be very successful with 43 grants awarded in 2014 in 4 different categories and amounts for a total of $60,000. PreK to 12th grade programs are in progress.
- Seven High Schools across the state offered dual-credit courses in agriculture due to a partnership with a centrally located Community College offering 2-year degrees in agriculture for the first time in 2013. MAITC has served on the advisory board and continues to assist and facilitate this new offering with over 200 HS students participating in 2014.
- MAITC continues to partner with Maine School Garden Network and in 2014 grants have been received for 16 regional gatherings to connect school garden supporters in the regions with school food service, local farmers and the resources available to them.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- Over 15,000 Ag. Specialty license plates were sold generating over $150,000 for Ag Education.
- 43 Ag. Education grants provided $60,000 across the state.
- 12,500 students were exposed to volunteer presentations on agriculture.
- 79,672 Maine students received Ag Education programs in 2014
- 152 Pre-service teachers received Ag Education materials for use in their student teaching from MAITC
- 115 Maine school gardens are recorded on the directory and receive materials and resources.
- Over 2,500 teachers and others received monthly newsletters from MAITC.
Biosketch
State Contact: Willie Grenier; maitc@maine.gov

I have BS degree in Animal Science & Vocational Agriculture (concentration in Education) from the University of Maine. I have two children, both of which have served as contract staff for MAITC. Ariel has a BS (and is currently teaching dance) and Jared is a sophomore, both from the same land-grant university as their mom.

I was raised on a dairy farm in Maine and come from a long line of farmers and outdoors men and women. I have taught Elementary, Middle and High School, been a 4-H Leader and Executive Committee Member for the Cooperative Extension in Maine, taught Adult Education, managed a garden center and done employee training for Agway, an Eastern Farm and Garden Cooperative. I am a floral designer and own with my family a small business that decorates weddings and parties (in my spare time).

I have worked since 1998 to develop Maine Agriculture in the Classroom to where it is today. When I began our yearly budget was $5,000. In the year 2000 I was officially hired to work for MAITC on a contract basis for 8 hours a month. After 15 years my position is currently full-time with full benefits. We contract additional positions for individual projects. MAITC has an office at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and has full privileges for the state central fleet, employee insurance program and retirement.

There is a place in every state for Ag Education if someone has the passion to make it happen. The climate is right for Ag Education NOW!
Maryland 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Ag Literacy – each year a book about agriculture for elementary readers is selected by the Foundation’s elementary education committee. Volunteers purchase the books, read the book to young students and donate the books to the school’s media center. Several lessons are developed as companions to the book and are posted on the Foundation’s website. The 2014 Ag Literacy book was “What’s In the Garden” by Marianne Berkes. Six companion lessons and activities were prepared supporting this book. (see http://www.maefonline.com/programs_ag_literacy_2013_maryland_agricultural_education.html)

Middle School – working in collaboration with the Delmarva Poultry Industry (DPI) our middle school and natural resources education director, Peggy Eppig, helped develop “Flock to the Classroom”. These six lessons for middle school explore the many facets of the chicken industry on the Delmarva Peninsula. Learn more at http://www.maefonline.com/Updates%2010.27/DPI%20press%20release.pdf.

Amazing! Maryland Agriculture – inspired by the 2014 National Ag in the Classroom Conference experience teachers Karl Kidd and Kim Baker along with our elementary education director, Jeanne Mueller decided to write and publish a book about Maryland Agriculture. The book is the 2015 Ag Literacy book in Maryland. Many companion lessons were developed to support the book. Additionally, selected video segments from the Maryland Public Television program, “Maryland Farm and Harvest”, are included with the book. Visit http://www.maefonline.com/programs_ag_literacy_maryland_agricultural_education.html for more information.

Visit www.mpt.org/farm to stream Maryland Farm & Harvest.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
• Completed graphic wrap on last of three mobile labs to receive a full wrap. These graphics act as a traveling billboard for promoting agriculture as well as appearing to be an exciting place to learn for kids.
• Helped to start two new high school Ag education programs and three new FFA chapters
• Continued to raise funds for college scholarships
• added two collaborative workshops with the State Department of Education and the Maryland Geographic Alliance

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
• Had a presence in all 23 counties and Baltimore City
• Ag Showcase reached over 25,000 people directly
• Continue to reach a large audience of teachers and students in Baltimore City and other urban areas.
• Expanding the Mid-Atlantic Farm Based Educator Program. One farm nearly lost its entire base of 6,000 students when the school system they served required the farm to identify the learning objectives the on-farm activities addressed. Without the support and training from the FBE Network this farm would not have had a clue how to identify the learning objectives. The farm continues to serve this school system because of the training they received. FBE reach well over 50,000 students each year. This is an important and growing audience.
Biosketch
State Contact: George Mayo; gmayo@maefonline.com


Education: BS Ornamental Horticulture 1977 Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA

Fellowship: LEAD Maryland Class V

Current Boards and Commissions:
- Baltimore County Career and Technology Education Advisory Council (April, 2006 - present)
- Baltimore County Workforce Development Council 2008 - 2015
- Governor’s Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (July, 2007 - present)
- Maryland Agricultural Resource Council 2006 - present
- Harford County Ag Advisory Board 2007 - present
- Baltimore County Youth Development Council 2009 - present

Affiliations:
- Member - Maryland Nursery & Landscape Association
- Member - Horticultural Society of Maryland
- Member - Maryland Farm Bureau
- Member - Gunpowder Junior Agricultural Club, Baltimore County
- Advisor - North Harford High School Agricultural Program
- Active - National Ag in the Classroom Organization 2005 - present
Massachusetts 2009 Report

Classroom Resources
None reported for 2009–2014

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
None reported for 2010 – 2014

Program Summary 2009 for Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom

Mini-Grant Program: The MAC Mini-Grant awarded $2,800 in 2009, to support eight worthy initiatives submitted by Massachusetts educators. Since 1994, MAC has awarded more than $183,000 to 232 projects planned and carried out by educators across the State. Grants are awarded three times a year.

Educational Newsletters: The MAC seasonal newsletter is published three times a year. Each newsletter focuses on one aspect of the organization and also provides a four-page educational resource for one agricultural topic with background materials and activities for the classroom. Feature agricultural articles in our 2009 newsletters included: Massachusetts Agricultural History, Gardening in Containers and Sunflowers. In 2009, we printed 12,000 copies for distribution and also sent the newsletter by e-mail to more than 1,000 educators.

Workshops for Teachers on the Farm: In 2009, MAC conducted fourteen workshops for educators on farms across the state. Ten professional development points were offered for each workshops, reaching over 250 educators. Each session offered an in-depth educational overview of one aspect of Massachusetts agriculture with hands-on activities for the classrooms. Also included was a farm tour and opportunity to meet the farmer and learn about the work that goes on at the farm. Since 1996, MAC has offered more than 122 workshops on farms across the state bringing on-farm education experiences to more than 1,500 educators.

Summer Graduate-Credit Course for Teachers: In 2009, MAC held our Fourth Summer Graduate Course Growing Agriculture in the Classroom" in conjunction with Fitchburg State College. Eleven teachers participated, attending eight educational workshops on farms across the state. Each participant also kept a journal, took a quiz at each farm workshop, wrote three lesson plans for their classroom and presented one lesson to their peers on August 12th.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
None reported for 2010 – 2014

Annual Winter Conference: On February 7, MAC held our 8th Annual Winter Conference at the Baird Middle School in Ludlow. 153 educators attended and participated in four workshop sessions, each with a choice of six workshops presented by a teacher or farm educator.

Fall Workshop for Educators: On November 7, MAC held our First Fall Conference for Educators at the Clay Science Center in Brookline in conjunction with adjacent Allandale Farm. 107 educators participated in the conference which offered four concurrent sessions, with a choice of 4 workshops focusing on Composting, School Gardening and other Green School initiatives.
Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar: MAC collaborated with the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources and USDA NRCS to produce the 2010 Calendar of Massachusetts Agriculture. It is a tool to educate teachers, legislators and the general public, while also creating an attractive daily reminder of Massachusetts agriculture.

Visit the MAC Web Site at www.aginclassroom.org to find an ever expanding site including information on workshops and conferences; educational resources, mini-grants and more.

**Biosketch**
State Contact: Kaisa Holloway Cripps; kaisamassagclassroom@gmail.com
Classroom Resources
A new water lesson was created to accompany the new book by Nancy Carlson, “Water: Sources-Use-Conservation.” Written for 3-5th grades, the lesson takes students through the basics of water forms and the hydrologic cycle, and then incorporates a hands-on parts per million activity and closes with a discussion on agriculture water conservation and use, assisted by visuals.

Our soil lesson was updated in early 2014. A lesson for 4th and 5th grades, “Soil...It’s More Than Just Dirt,” teaches students about soil density, and permeability, using hands-on experiments demonstrating conservation methods.

Building off of initial work that Illinois Ag in the Classroom did with the “Farmer George Plants a Nation” book, we revised the lesson book to suit Michigan agriculture ecosystems, crops and products.

Updates were also made to our “Think Ag Careers” lesson book for use with students from elementary to high school, as they look at potential opportunities in agriculture. Further, we created a series of “Think Ag Careers” videos, showcasing individuals in agriculture and food related careers. The videos are available on our website and YouTube.

Lessons and activities can be found at: miagclassroom.org

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
In 2014, the Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom program administered through the Promotion & Education Department at Michigan Farm Bureau and funded through the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, worked to tailor our branding in communication and materials for specific audiences. We are using the Michigan Ag in the Classroom logo and branding provided by the National Ag in the Classroom Organization, in our outreach to educators and Ag in the Classroom volunteers. Volunteer promotional material continues to bear the Promotion & Education logo and branding.

We began a classroom scholarship program, funded through the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture. We provided four $500 scholarships for classroom projects that qualified. We also sponsored four teacher scholarships to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in 2014.

Michigan continues to emphasize volunteer training and outreach, as well as direct outreach to teachers. Our keystone training conference provided training for more than 100 county leaders. Throughout the state, more than 150 volunteers engaged with more than 9,800 students in Agriculture in the Classroom lessons across 40 counties. Educational events such as Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Days) were conducted in 30 counties where more than 2,500 volunteers organized lessons and exhibits to teach 19,300 children about agriculture. Summer provides an increased opportunity for outreach through fairs and exhibitions, where more than 150,000 youth and adults are reached by our volunteer promoters.

2014 marked an increased emphasis on accurate agriculture books being read during March is Reading Month. We provided free copies of an accurate agriculture book to all State House and Senate Committee members, so they would use them as they were reading during the month.

Finally, we revised our resource guide that is used with both volunteers and educators. This new resource has spurred additional interest in new and existing resources.
Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- Agricultural literacy activities by volunteers increased across the state by 10%.
- At least 80% of our volunteers trained at the state level conduct AITC lessons at the local level.
- Project RED (Rural Education Day) activities continued to grow in the state, with two additional events and a 10% increase in outreach to students.
- In 2014, Ag Week activities continued to pick up momentum, with events and activities related to agricultural literacy took place in 65% of our county Farm Bureaus.

Biosketch
State Contact: Tonia Ritter; tritter@michfb.com

In October 2013, Tonia Ritter joined the Center for Education and Leadership Development as Manager of Promotion and Education. In her 14 years at MFB, Tonia also worked in the Government Relations area for the organization, first as a legislative counsel and then for six years managing the State Government Relations activities. Prior to joining MFB, she worked in marketing and in public relations for agricultural related companies.

Tonia is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a B.S. in Agricultural Communications. As an alumnus, she serves on the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Board. Tonia is active in her church and community, serving as a 4H leader, Chairperson of Christian Education and coaching her boys through AYSO soccer. Tonia and her husband Brad live in Byron, Michigan where they are raising three boys Trevor, Bryce and Evan on their family dairy farm.
Minnesota 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
All resources listed below are available online at www.mda.state.mn.us/maictc

- Minnesota AgMag Series for grades 4-6......revised annually with a series of three student AgMags, with an online interactive version developed.
- AgMag Jr......two issues per year revised with a new online interactive version developed.
- Education Specialist Sue Knott develops and revises K-12 lessons in core subject areas annually.
- Condensed History of Minnesota Agriculture poster revised.
- Set of 20 Plant and Animal Commodity Cards revised.
- Food for Thought Geography Curriculum updated to new Ag Census with 9 new lessons added to the previous lesson inventory.
- New renewable energy DVD: Biofuels as Renewable Energy developed with six unique stories and companion teacher resource link.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
- Initiated 1st Annual Teacher Summer Tour - two day agricultural field trip for K-12 teachers.
- Revised and enhanced our popular Food for Thought geography curriculum in cooperation with the MN Alliance for Geographic Education.
- Developed new renewable energy DVD with six unique science/STEM related stories: Biofuels as Renewable Energy.
- Developed and conducted comprehensive survey for over 300 Minnesota AgMag users - data being used to enhance publication going forward.
- Based on pro-bono marketing support from a large PR firm, initiated unique teacher champion" program in three metro area elementary school pilot sites - they hope is replicate and grow concept in 2015.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes
- 98% of pre-service teachers surveyed at the end of a MAITC workshop replied “strongly agree" or “agree" to the statement "I benefited by this presentation.”
- 52% of participants in the MAITC Summer Teacher Tour strongly agreed with the statement “I have an understanding of the importance of agriculture” BEFORE the tour. 96% of participants “strongly agreed” with this statement AFTER the tour.
- Participants in the 2014 MAITC Summer Teacher Tour were asked to respond to this statement: I can identify effective resources, information and personal contacts that are accessible to educate and grow agricultural literacy in my community and school. BEFORE the tour 4% Strongly Agreed, 48% Agreed, 36% Disagree, and 12% Strongly Disagreed. When asked this same question AFTER the tour, participants responded: 65% Strongly Agreed, 35% Agreed, 0% Disagreed, and 0% Strongly Disagreed.
- In a 2014 survey of student Minnesota AgMag users: 12% of current AgMag subscribers have used this educational publication for more than 15 years in their classroom; and 80% of responders prefer getting the print version of the AgMag vs. an online only option.
Biosketch
State Contact: Alan Withers; alan.withers@state.mn.us

Al Withers is both state contact and program director for MN Ag in the Classroom. This is his 30th year of leading the program, currently the longest tenured NAITC state contact. He is on staff in the Ag Marketing and Development Division at the MN Department of Agriculture. Withers holds a B.A. in Speech Communications and Marketing from the University of Minnesota. He has experience in radio broadcasting, the non-profit and business sectors, and in state government. He works closely with MAITC Education Specialist, Sue Knott, who has been with MAITC for 3.5 years. Sue holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Education and a Master’s in Education.
Mississippi 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
The projects completed in 2014 were the 4 updated resource guides for teachers grade K-6. They were the following units: wheat, apples, plants, and watermelons. These guides are full of ready to use lesson plans divided into the following subject areas: math, science, health, language arts and social studies. Each lesson is matched to state standards on all of the resources. These units were distributed across the state and used at teacher workshops. There were 4 activity books prepared to accompany the teaching units, they are From Wheat to Pasta, Eating the Alphabet/Fruits & Vegetables from A to Z, Growing Vegetable Soup, Senses on the Farm, The Adventures of 100% Happy Shirt. Promotional pieces such as activity sheets, and a commodity table topper along with a bookmark for each month. A spin-wheel game with Mississippi agriculture, cotton trivia cards and updates of the Mississippi & Mississippi Agriculture ABC’s and Mississippi Farm Bureau Find-a-Word. The Cotton Gin machine was shown to be a success because the majority of AITC programs for 2014 was the cotton gin. This program has helped students understand how cotton goes from the field to the clothes they wear.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
The Children’s Museum opened with a portion of the museum designated for the promotion of agriculture. This was an opportunity to assist in funding a position that would work through our AITC program. We partnered with the museum to reach every child about the importance of agriculture. We provided a grant for a designated teacher to represent agriculture in Mississippi History and Geography. By doing so, they are using our teaching units and other material. We presented two checks to the museum totaling $30,000. The coloring contest was a highlight as over 22,000 coloring sheets were distributed to schools for participation. These contests are held in each district for second grade students. Eight District winners receive $25 and the overall State Winner receives $50. As an on-going learning instrument, we offer units with Mississippi agriculture facts and a bright colored map indicating major commodities and the history of Mississippi and agriculture from the time the state was established until present day. 82 counties were presented updated teaching units, activity sheets for the barns used in their schools. News and Notes...the Voice of Mississippi Farm Bureau Women, a quarterly newsletter that provides information for the county Women’s Committee chairs and county secretaries with a section of AITC activities to do in schools or the promotion of activities which occurred in their county. The National AITC Conference was attended by our Teacher of the Year who is recognized for their accomplishments. The twelve district winners from the ag art contest were featured on the 2015 calendar with commodity facts. There were 10 scholarships, totaling $16,000, were presented in 2014. The 2014 Book of the Year, Seed Soil Sun, sold over 400 books.
Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- Over 325,000 visited the Children’s Museum in 2014 where AITC was taught through a designated teacher we provided. Teachers received agriculture units and material. An agriculture program was done each Friday.
- $30,000 donated to have available an agriculture section in the Children’s Museum.
- Over 200,000 people viewed the article in the Farm Country magazine on the Children’s Museum.
- $4,000 presented for the MFBF Ambassador Scholarship Award.
- 75,000 kids from schools visited the Children’s Barn at the State Fair and received educational material about animal health and human nutrition.
- 3,000 students attended National Ag Day.
- 10% increase on the 6 Teacher Workshops held with 260 attending, 140 received CEU credit.
- $1,000 grant awarded to Teacher of the Year.
- Over 900 members in the Women’s/AITC Facebook which was set-up to share education and agriculture.
- 2% increase on Partner with 4-H Program in their Leadership Training Conference we provided the conference, with over 120 in attendance.
- 80 county school FFA students participated in teaching their selection of a teaching unit, to help people understand the importance of agriculture.
- 50% increase in material distributed to educate the public about agriculture due to our new AITC traveling trailer.
- New bookmarks with information on Mississippi Equine, distributed over 90,000.
- 0% increase on teachers receiving CEU credit.
- 30% increase on the 41,600 Commodity bookmarks were distributed each month.
- 10% decrease in material distributed at the Summer Conferences for Home School Contacts.
- 45% increase in the coloring contest sheets distributed, total count 32,000 sheets.

Biosketch
State Contact: Clara Bilbo; cbilbo@msfb.org

Serve as Coordinator of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Women and Ag in the Classroom Programs. Graduate of Belhaven College. Has been employed with Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation for 30 years. Serves on six committees regarding agriculture.
Missouri 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- Created a commodity poster illustrating the food and non-food products from major commodities. Reviewed, refreshed and updated links to existing webquests posted online at mofb.org and linked at agclassroom.org
- Agriculture is important to me! Agriculture is...
- Fall: Pumpkins and Apples

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
- Online Agricultural WebQuests continue to be highly trafficked by educators and parents. These online resources couple technology skills and agricultural literacy. Each lesson is teacher created and aligned with state learning standards.
- Google Analytics Dashboard reports 4916 visits with 2589 pages viewed in 2014.
- Exhibiting at statewide teacher events including the MO Association of School Librarians promotes the resource to educators and pre-service educators. These venues provided over 5000 contacts.
- Promoted the My American Farm online resource to educators and consumers.
- Teacher Professional Development Workshops and pre-service training assist in getting information regarding this resource to educators. Topics provide accurate portrayals of agriculture and ideas for infusing agricultural concepts into the curriculum.
- Three Counties hosted over 1000 4th grade students during Farm Day events providing hands-on experiences in agriculture along with 150 8th grade students to explore careers related to agriculture.
- $7500 in mini-grants awarded to teachers providing assistance with resources and field trips allowing accurate agricultural messages to students. 35 awards were made ultimately reaching 1750 students.
- 175 agriculture educators participated in workshops during their state meeting. 200 educators participated in workshops held at the MO Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference.
- County Farm Bureau volunteers provide program support for schools in their respective counties. These include field days, classroom resource persons, materials for classroom use and organizing teacher workshops.
- Partnerships provide opportunities to multiply efforts. Venues including the American Royal, St. Louis Science Center, Missouri State Fair, Kansas City AgriBusiness Council, FFA, Sigma Alpha, St. Louis Agriculture Business Club, Missouri Farmers Care and Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow promote agricultural literacy to a variety of audience.
Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- 85% of educators participating in workshops, in-service or pre-service education have utilized materials presented. Many have requested additional information and referred additional teachers to the program for information and resources.
- 65% of the teachers/librarians introduced to the webquest program indicate they have visited the website and will utilize the program to enhance student learning.
- 76% share positive messaging regarding the usage of My American Farm as a tool and resource within their classroom and as extended activities outside the classroom.
- 86% of the teachers in the pre-service workshops indicate they have visited the website and will plan to utilize the materials and develop teaching units for use in the classroom.
- 72% of 4th grade teachers utilized agricultural concepts in their study of Missouri.
- 4500 urban students participated in school tours at the American Royal and learned about agriculture. Educators indicated that over 50% of their students were enlightened by learning where their food and fiber originates.
- 90% of the teachers participating in the Farm Day Programs in their respective counties indicated they utilized the agricultural message pre/post within their classroom. 70% indicate they gained a better understanding of agriculture and can better utilize agricultural materials as a result.
- 85% of students participating in pre-service programs indicate it is helpful to them as they continue to plan for their career in teaching about agriculture.
- 200 teachers participating in the training conducted in conjunction with the Missouri Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference indicated they would immediately include the resources shared in upcoming units of study. Two hands-on sessions for students were conducted allowing them to experience a broader understanding of agriculture. Materials demonstrated were given to each participant to share with their family, teacher and others.

Biosketch
State Contact: Diane Olson; dolson@mofb.com

B.S. Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

M.S. from University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Additional post-graduate studies at the University of MO

11/1/1985-Present-Director of Promotion and Education for Missouri Farm Bureau Federation which includes state contact for Agriculture in the Classroom

1969-1985-University of Missouri Extension Child and Family Development Specialist

11/1/1985-Present Missouri Agriculture in the Classroom State Contact

1997-1998 President-Elect of the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium

1998-1999 President of the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium
Montana 2014 Report

Classroom Resources

- Montana “Reading Agriculture Landscapes” program. Reading books for grades K-4 which told an accurate agriculture literacy story were purchased and placed into schools across Montana. The 24 books were accompanied by lesson plans which provided a deeper understanding of the literacy subject. Lesson plans aligned to current Montana educational standards. Visual classroom aids such as posters and center publications also were provided. A college level class was offered in 3 locations in Montana for teachers, at the workshops lesson plans/labs were modeled. This project will be offered to Montana schools for a 3 year period.

- Agriculture Careers for High School Guidance Counselors program. Agriculture Careers packets with posters following CTE career pathways information were presented to each high school guidance counselor in our state. CD containing materials was included along with posters, scholarship opportunities, job outlook studies, and university materials. Classes were instructed at Montana Educators Conference on how to use the packets.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

Major project accomplishments for 2014 included the development of a reading program for grades K-4, and then offering the program to teachers at several different locations across the state. Other major accomplishments included our agriculture careers outreach program which has the potential to assist high school juniors and seniors. We accomplished this by providing careers packets to senior high guidance counselors in our state.

Our program was also honored this year by our land grant university, Montana State University. For this honor the agriculture literacy specialist received the Mike Malone Ambassador of Education, Educator of the Year award which signifies excellence in education. This is the first time the award was given to anyone other than a university president, dean, or professor. The entire Department of Agriculture was honored as well.

Major Program Impacts or Outcomes

- The Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Educators Association requested additional 2014 workshops across Montana by the Agriculture Literacy Specialist. A mapping project of the impact of our program was updated for data/planning.
- Our work with educators on Indian Reservations grew by 200%
- 285 High School Guidance Counselors received agriculture careers guidance packets with DVD and posters with potential to reach 9000 high school seniors each year. We reached 1900 at our education fairs.
- New university class offered on agriculture literacy through K-4 reading programs, aligned to common core ELA. 30 teachers signed up for these classes the first year, 260 pre-registered for 2015.
- 1500 + copies of our agriculture literacy materials were handed out to Montana educators at the fall conference with another 750 copies ordered for shipment.
- Partnerships between federal and state agencies to impact education of students about agriculture and environmental issues grew. Agencies that are now in the cooperative for these efforts include agriculture, wildlife and parks, natural resources, and education.
- 100% of teachers who attended teacher in-service trainings and pre-service trainings gave the highest marks to the training based on: educational value, implementation ease, and standards
Further evaluation comments showed teachers were more likely to seek lesson plans with hands on activities.

- We received permission from Eric Carle once again to continue our workshop on the Very Hungry Caterpillar, which has again recorded record requests in school districts. The set includes many additional agriculture literacy materials; grades K-4.
- Relationships with Montana’s Office of Public Instruction grew and they have requested our presence at more of their workshops for teacher education.

**Biosketch**
State Contact: Lorri Brenneman; lbrenneman@mt.gov

I have been serving the State of Montana as the Agriculture Literacy Specialist for the Montana Department of Agriculture since 2009. Prior to that it was my pleasure to teach art and plant sciences to 170 students a week in a Montana School District near Bozeman, MT. I was raised in Montana in a very small town next to Glacier National Park, and have lived in Montana most of my life. My family includes my husband David, our children and a wonderful granddaughter. My education was attained at Montana State University where I earned my undergraduate degrees in 2001. I then graduated with a Master’s in Education and Curriculum Instruction/Development in 2007. Since that time I continue to attend university classes, focusing on environmental issues and technology.
Nebraska 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
http://www.ne-aitc.org/ufm/resources.php

- We are finishing up a Nebraska map project that will supplement 4th grade Nebraska studies lessons. It was a joint project between Nebraska AITC and all the major commodity boards. This project will be launched March 1.
- Pork Byproducts A-Z poster

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Continued Pre-Service Presentations in 10 colleges across the state. Over 700 education majors are being reached through 2-3 hour sessions during their education method classes.

Working with the Vivayic, the makers of the My American Farm project to create an interactive Nebraska Agricultural Map. The map will cover Nebraska’s ag commodities, activities on transcontinental railroad, soil types, water, etc. This map was funded by Nebraska’s major commodity groups.

Working in conjunction with the Omaha Children’s Museum to design a 25,000 square feet display on agriculture called “Once Upon a Farm”. This project will be featured at the museum October 2014-April 2015.

The Ag Pen Pal Program continues to reach elementary students by linking a classroom with a farmer or rancher. This year we hit 284 classrooms.

Through the AITC Endowment Fund, 4 teachers were awarded $500 mini-grants. These grants provide the teachers with funding to purchase resources, literature books, field trips, science fair projects that are related to agriculture.

Our golf tournament was held for the 16th year bringing in close to $26,000.

This year we started offering 10 of our lessons via Skype to educate classrooms. This program allows us to Skype into classrooms and give them a thirty minute agricultural lesson. This teaching tool allows for direct dialogue between the students and the Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. We found through surveys that teachers are more comfortable with us teaching ag lessons than themselves. Over 3200 students directly reached through this method.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
- 98% of pre-service teachers reported an increase in agricultural knowledge gained due to participating in a pre-service workshop.
- 95% of the pre-service teachers said they will utilize three or more AITC lessons in their future classrooms.
- 98% of pre-service teachers say because of the AITC pre-service workshop they are more comfortable talking about agriculture.
- 97% of the teachers completing both the Ag Pen Pal and Learning Barn evaluation scales reported a knowledge gain in the area of agriculture for their students because of their participation.
- 88% of students participating in the Nebraska pen pal program increased their knowledge of agriculture by two places (30%) or more on a scale of 1-5. For 74%, the knowledge gain was three places or more.
• 95% of teachers who received free educational resources during National Ag Week rated the resources excellent and very useful in their classrooms. Approximately 6,100 students were reached through this effort.
• 100% of classrooms participating in Skype series noted a gain in agricultural knowledge. Over 3200 students reached through this effort.

Biosketch
State Contact: Deanna Karmazin; DeannaK@nefb.org

BS and MS in Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications through the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
Certified Teacher in the State of Nebraska.
Certified grant writer.
Sixteen years’ experience developing curriculum for Agricultural Literacy projects and programs.
Worked for the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County for 15 years as a youth educator in the 4-H program area focusing in the areas of animal science and agriculture literacy.
Was hired as the Nebraska State Coordinator in April, 2011.
Classroom Resources
Developed: Series of student workbooks with information/activities promoting the new School Meal Pattern categories of: milk, vegetables, fruit, grains and meats & meat alternatives.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
In 2014, Nevada AITC is proud to have partnered with a number of organizations and volunteers to deliver agriculture literacy events/activities. Highlights included the hosting 8 elementary Ag Days across the state and a local FFA chapter taking the lead to provide interactive stations at the Discover Museum (children’s museum) during Farm Week* which drew 400 attendees each day of the week.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition division received federal funding to promote and implement the new school meal pattern and funds were allocated to educate students on the milk, vegetables, fruits, grains and meats and meat alternatives. From these funds a workbook was created for each of the topics and included a link to Nevada agriculture and was aligned to educational standards. We’re excited to distribute those to teachers and students across the state in 2015.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
None Reported in 2014

Biosketch
State Contact: Amber Smyer; asmyer@agri.nv.gov

Amber grew up in southern Idaho, as the daughter of an agricultural educator and raising sugar beets and potatoes. This created a lifelong passion for agriculture and education. After obtaining a bachelor’s of science degree in Agricultural Education, Amber worked for the National FFA Organization. While with FFA she obtained a Master’s of Public Affairs from Indiana University at IUPUI. Amber is excited to be in Nevada and promoting agricultural literacy!
New Hampshire 2014 Report

Classroom Resources

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
We received a grant to develop state related commodity information into a curriculum resource and another grant to develop educational materials regarding invasive forest pests. Time has also been spent successfully expanding our Board of Directors to include more commodity groups as well as the DOE.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
None Reported for 2014

Biosketch
State Contact: Debbie Cox; nhaitc@nhfarmbureau.org

I began as the NHAITC statewide coordinator in December, 2013.

Education: BS Environmental Recreation from Springfield College in Springfield, MA, minor in Business Studies

Currently: NH FFA Foundation, President
NH Career & Technical Administrators, Administrative Assistant

Prior Experience:

- Elementary Classroom experience as a volunteer working on a variety of projects
- High School Classroom experience working with students preparing for state, regional and national competitions in areas such as food science, equine evaluation, agricultural marketing plan, public speaking, environmental science, forestry, etc.
- Extensive FFA experience on the chapter and state level. Assist students with competition preparation, agricultural projects and special activities. Help the State Executive Director prepare for the State Convention, run state qualifying competitions, run the woodsman competition at a county fair, webmaster, and accounting.
- Personally owned horses, sheep, llamas, waterfowl and a variety of other animals.
Classroom Resources
The Learning Through Gardening curriculum booklet “Gardening Across the Curriculum” was completed in 2014. The booklet includes 68 lessons that teach the basics of vegetable gardening as well as integrate the garden and agriculture with math, science, social studies, and language arts. A list of 100 titles of fiction and non-fiction children’s books that address garden-related subjects is also included.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
In 2014, The New Jersey Agricultural Society’s Learning Through Gardening (LTG) program awarded 12 new grants to build vegetable gardens in elementary schools: five were school wide grants and seven were to individual teachers. These additions bring to 25 the number of schools maintaining vegetable gardens in LTG’s three-year grant program. Kick-off pep rallies designed to build enthusiasm for the new school gardens were held at all five of the new elementary schools and workshops were held for these schools’ teachers designed to show them how to get started teaching about the garden and how to integrate garden lessons and activities across the curriculum in everyday lessons.

About 100 students from 15 schools participated in LTG’s annual poster and essay contest celebrating Farm-City week. Thirty teachers from LTG schools attended a Best Practices workshop in June to share their garden strategies, stories, successes, and lessons.

Also in 2014, LTG completed its new “Gardening Across the Curriculum” curriculum book for teachers, which includes 68 lessons that teach the basics of vegetable gardening, as well as integrate the garden and agriculture with math, science, social studies, and language arts. A list of 100 titles of fiction and non-fiction children’s books that address garden-related subjects is also included.

A survey documenting the longevity of the garden programs funded by the New Jersey Agricultural Society’s Learning Through Gardening program was completed in October 2014. For the survey, 29 schools that have received NJAS grants in the past 10 years were contacted. Of these schools, 81% still have school garden programs and 80% grow vegetables in the gardens.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
- Approximately 6,200 students were given the opportunity to grow and harvest their own vegetables in a Learning Through Gardening vegetable garden.
- About 564 teachers were given access to Learning Through Gardening curriculum.
- About 100 students participated in the program’s annual poster and essay contest.

Biosketch
State Contact: Carolyn Taylor; learningthroughgardening@gmail.com
Carolyn Taylor joined the New Jersey Agricultural Society’s Learning Through Gardening program as its new director in August 2013. She is a graduate of West Chester University with a certification in elementary education from Rider University. Ms. Taylor was an elementary teacher for seven years and is a certified Master Gardener. Her experience also includes work as a journalist and financial editor. As program director, Ms. Taylor provides educational support to teachers involved in the Learning Through Gardening program. She creates and distributes curriculum designed to help teachers in grades preschool-5 integrate gardening and garden activities into their everyday curriculum in all subjects. She also develops and presents professional development workshops for Learning Through Gardening teachers that focus on increasing the agricultural literacy of students by incorporating agriculture in lessons across the curriculum.
New Mexico 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- New Mexico Ag in the Classroom Energy Reader
- NM Ag Literacy Project partnership with FFA “Who Grew My Soup?”

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

New NM Ag Literacy Program:
A partnership with New Mexico FFA was established to present “Who Grew My Soup” promoting agricultural literacy in New Mexico elementary schools. The pilot program began in the spring of 2014 with six FFA Chapters participating. Forty additional NM FFA chapters joined the project in the summer. The reviews from FFA advisors, students, and classroom teachers have been very positive. The NM FFA State Office has going to fund posters for the 2015 Ag Literacy project. We thank Oregon AITC for their assistance and advice and New York for creating some great videos to go with the book we used.

Summer Workshop on Wheels:
We continued our summer regional teacher meeting “Workshop on Wheels” for the second year. The workshop was made into a two-day event with teachers getting to meet experts in their local area and receive lessons that apply to the agriculture tours that take place on the second day. It is open to educators across the state but a majority of attendees are from the region we toured. This provides an important opportunity to learn about agriculture and how it relates specifically to their community.

Creation of the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau Foundation Board:
This year we created a Foundation Board of Directors that will ultimately help in developing fundraising opportunities to grow the breadth and scope of NM Ag in the Classroom educational outreach.

Buckles & Boots “Fun” Raiser:
We hosted our first annual fundraiser this year and introduced the new Foundation Board members. The event was a great way to raise awareness about all the activities NMAITC does as well as raise funds for classroom activities. We hope to make this an annual event. The evening included games to play, a live auction, dancing, and dinner and was held at our annual NM Farm & Livestock Bureau Conference.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
Fifty-eight percent of the NM FFA programs are participating in the NM Ag Literacy Project it’s first year out! At the time of reporting 1,375 students, 78 educators, and 123 volunteers participated this year. This included impact on agricultural education in very rural areas of the state that has not previously had Ag in the Classroom materials or presentations. Approximately 90% of these presentations occurred in classrooms that were new to Ag in the Classroom materials.

The teacher workshops and trainings increased for a second straight year with a growth of 172% with more teachers than ever before coming from middle and high school science classrooms.

Our “Workshop on Wheels” saw an increase in agriculture awareness among teacher participants. When the attendees were asked, “Are you involved in agriculture?” nine of the participants said no on the pre-survey. The post-survey yielded a significant turn-around with all participants answering yes to the same question. We were able to get the teachers to see the value and importance of agriculture and that is the first step in getting them to implement it into their curriculum!
Biosketch
State Contact: Traci Curry; agclass@nmflb.org

Traci Curry: Southern Region Director
Degree in Elementary Education from Eastern New Mexico University
Eleven years teaching experience in first, second, and third grades.
Appointed Director of NMAITC January 2011.
New York 2014 Report

Classroom Resources

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Five new Kids Growing Food (KGF) Mini Grants were awarded to establish or help sustain school food gardens through our mini-grant program.

We held our 9th annual Agricultural Literacy Week event in 2014. This year’s project reached 51,000 second grade students across New York State with over 1,100 volunteer readers in 2700 classrooms.

Conducted the annual I Love NY Agriculture Art & Writing Contest in partnership with New York Farm Bureau, which provided agriculture literacy and awareness to over 300 students within the state.

Workshops for teachers, extension educators, and volunteers were offered at several different venues, training over 200 teachers this past year.

Received a USDA Farm to School Conferences grant in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County and NY Farm Bureau. Will be hosting two-day Agricultural Literacy Academies across the state.

NYAITC was present at many events around the state and northeast region including New York State Agricultural Society Annual Meeting, the New York State Fair, presented at the New York State Elementary Classroom Teachers Association Conference, and more.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
Over 500 grants have been awarded since 1998 to start and develop school food gardens through our Kids Growing Food program. 5 grants were awarded in 2014 to schools throughout the state. These 5 grants will impact over 5000 students with direct experience growing food at school.

- 51,000 elementary age students received instruction during our Agricultural Literacy Week Program.
- 200 educators were trained on the Food, Land and People Curriculum
- 300 students entered our I Love NY Agriculture Art and Writing Contest
- 6 teachers were nominated for the NYAITC Teacher of the Year Award

Biosketch
State Contact: Katie Bigness; kse45@cornell.edu

Katie Bigness joined Cornell University Agriculture Outreach and Education as the coordinator of the New York Agriculture in the Classroom program in May of 2012. Katie grew up in Northern New York and attended the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cobleskill receiving a Bachelor’s of Technology Degree in Agricultural Business Management. During college, she stayed active in promoting agricultural education by working with for the Oswegatchie Educational Center, the Professional Development Conference for Agricultural Educators, New York FFA, and interning with the National 4-H Council. Katie began her Master of Science Degree at the University of Arkansas in Agricultural and Extension Education. She actively participated in Missouri Farm Bureau, served as a 4-H project leader, and still volunteers with the local Extension Service and agricultural education programs across the state.
Classroom Resources
Lesson plans for specific commodity groups and jobs found in agriculture were developed for the Going Local K-5 Teacher Workshops delivered in the summer months hosted by individual Farm Bureau board members. These lesson plans can be found on the website under grades K-5. The commodity groups include peanuts, corn, pumpkins, vegetables, Christmas trees, beef/dairy cows, and horses. These lesson plans can be found on the Curriculum page of the website http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/

Each 2014 Book of the Month contains activity sheets that contain integrated, hands-on material that support each book designed to be additional resources for teachers. The Book of the Month program can be found on the website: http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/Resources/TeacherCenter/BookoftheMonth.aspx

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
- 2 Kenan Fellowships
- Addition of a curriculum specialist endorsed for middle school grades 6-8
- Book of the Month
- Going Local Grant online submission (twice a year)
- Twitter account
- Ag Science Night at elementary schools

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
- 93% of pre-service teachers surveyed in 2014 said they planned to utilize AITC teaching material
- 91% of in-service teachers surveyed in 2014 said they gained new knowledge from attending an ATIC workshop
- 90% of in-service teachers surveyed in 2014 said they would utilize AITC teaching material downloaded from the website
- 500 families of K-5 school children gained information regarding commodities grown and raised in NC through the Ag Science Night Program.
- Facebook followers increased by 45%.
- 57 county school districts received funding up to $500.00 to complete an Ag-based project through the AITC Going Local grant.
- 12,000 K-6 students received AITC materials at the NC State Fair
- Increased Going Local Teacher Workshops by 50%
- Distributed over 500 Agricultural Literacy themed books to K-5 schools

Biosketch
State Contact: Michele Reedy; Michele.reedy@ncfb.org
Michele Reedy grew up on a 4th generation family farm in Southampton County located in southeast Virginia. There her family grew peanuts, cotton, soybeans, and corn while also raising beef cattle and market hogs. Currently those farms are in full operation. She received her BS degree in Animal Science from Ferrum College. Upon graduation she worked for Carroll Foods, known today as Murphy Brown and later began a career in management with Southern States. In 1994 she began her teaching career and since then has taught grades three through twelve as well as college students receiving their degree in Teacher Education. While teaching she earned her Master’s degree in Adult Education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction and is currently ABD status for her Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership.
Classroom Resources
AgMag - http://www.ndaginclassroom.org

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
The North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom program had four major components again this year:

Project Food, Land & People (FLP) Teacher Workshops were held to educate 60 K-12 teachers on integrating agricultural information into their curriculum. Each participating teacher received a copy of the Resources for Learning CD, as prepared by the national FLP organization. In addition, teachers took tours and listened to guest speakers to learn more about agriculture (North Dakota's #1 industry) and how to make it relevant to their students. We had 4 summer workshops and one online course during spring semester. We have 4 versions of the program due to overwhelming requests from educators who want more. FLP training was offered via correspondence and/or online. We use Facebook as our tool along with two sessions via Interactive Video Network at NDSU. Educators receive credit from North Dakota State University for our courses. The educators affect ag literacy of approximately 3500 students an average of 5 times each year with a FLP lesson.

Three editions of the North Dakota Ag Mag (with Teacher Guides) were distributed to students in grades 3-4-5. The total distribution was 1900 issues for the year.

The North Dakota Geographic Alliance coordinated an agriculture tour for a total of 30 elementary and high school teachers to give them a first-hand glimpse into the agriculture industry.

A Mini-Grant Program funded 30 projects that promoted agricultural literacy over 6100 students and adults by using hands-on activities to develop and enrich understanding of agriculture as the source of food and fiber in our society.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
90% of teachers attending our summer workshops indicated they will use the curriculum at least 5 times reaching approximately 3500 students. 98% of those teachers have indicated they have an extremely high degree of satisfaction with the experience and will utilize the materials since it is matched to state standards. 1900 students received the ND AgMag publication 3 times this school year.

Agriculture literacy increased for approximately 6500 students and community members due to the programs funded by the Mini-Grants made possible.

5,855 students have improved agriculture literacy due to the annual field trip programs Living Ag Classroom" and Special Assignment Pizza".

Biosketch
State Contact: Sarah Tunge; stunge@nd.gov

Sarah Tunge recently joined the ND Department of Agriculture and the Ag in the Classroom program. She has ten years of agriculture and natural resource outreach experience with various state agencies.
Ohio 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) network is the main Ohio AITC delivery system. 81 of 87 county Farm Bureaus have a communications action team in place, which includes education outreach.

New lessons have been added to the student activities section of OurOhio.org. All lessons are matched to state standards.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
For the 13th year, OFBF sponsored the Land and Living exhibit at the Ohio State Fair. The goal of the exhibit is to provide ag education opportunities for fair visitors. Approximately 350,000 fairgoers visited the display. Approximately 8,000 children planted a sunflower seed and took it home as part of the Agrium exhibit. OFBF again partnered with the Ohio State Fair, Ohio Department of Ag and commodity organizations to enhance the Ag is Cool" program, an interactive and educational scavenger hunt targeted to fourth grade students. Approximately 900 4th grade students participated and 3,300 other students and adults participated. Students could win a $500 scholarship by writing an essay. Fourth grade teachers were recruited and offered free admission and a chance to win a field trip to an Ohio farm. Teachers were required to visit the Ag is Cool" stations and write a lesson plan; 680 teachers participated.

In the 2013/2014 fiscal year, 86 county Farm Bureaus received $450,000 in education funding from Ohio Farm Bureau for events, communication and education projects. From evaluations submitted, approximately 16,075 county Farm Bureau volunteers were involved with the activities and an estimated 140,754 people were reached.

The Teachers’ Lounge e-newsletter was e-mailed four times in 2014 to 1,933 teacher subscribers. The goal is to provide teachers who are interested in ag education materials with a summary of resource materials and programs available to them. Teachers’ Lounge is edited by a local teacher.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
Almost ninety-nine percent (86 of 87) of the county Farm Bureaus conducted education programs.

More than fifty unique Grow and Know events took place throughout the state. County Farm Bureaus have embraced the concept and created many events of their own, which are collectively promoted in each issue of Our Ohio magazine. The nature of county Grow and Know events was diverse and included speakers at county fairs, farm tours for students, meet a farmer events, tailgate events, cooking classes, farm market tours, wine events and dinners on the farm.

20,539 students from K-4 participated in an Ag Day in 42 counties in Ohio. These include multiple stations teaching a variety of agricultural and natural resources subjects. They are coordinated and conducted by the county Farm Bureaus.

Sixty-one County Farm Bureaus participated in their county fairs by offering educational activities such as agricultural scavenger hunts, member information stands, livestock barn tours and ask the expert events. This included 1,033 volunteers and touched 120,215 people.
Biosketch
State Contact: Sandy Kuhn; skuhn@ofbf.org

Sandy Kuhn graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor’s degree in animal science/agricultural education and has master’s degrees in agriculture education/human resource management and in business administration. Kuhn joined the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation staff in January 2007 and currently serves as Director of Commodity Relations and AgriPOWER. Previously Sandy served as the Executive Director for the Ohio Livestock Coalition. She has recently taken on the role of AITC Coordinator for Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Prior to OFBF, she worked at OSU South Centers. She has also worked in human resources and feed sales.

Kuhn was active with the Fairfield County Farm Bureau, serving as vice president of its board of trustees and on the promotion and education committee. She served as president of the OSU College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Alumni Society Board and currently serves as vice president of the Fairfield County OSU Alumni Club. She also is a volunteer at St. Joseph’s Church in Circleville.
Oklahoma 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- Specialty Crop Ag Magazine developed, printed, and connected online with Aurasma App. [http://www.clover.okstate.edu/fourh/aitc/lessons/extras/activitybooks/activity.html](http://www.clover.okstate.edu/fourh/aitc/lessons/extras/activitybooks/activity.html)
- Oklahoma M(Ag)azine online and connected to the Aurasma App.
- 18 New lessons developed and online: [http://www.clover.okstate.edu/fourh/aitc/lessons/extras/newless.html](http://www.clover.okstate.edu/fourh/aitc/lessons/extras/newless.html)

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
The major projects and accomplishments for Oklahoma AITC include the State-wide coloring, video, poster, essay, bulletin board, storyboard contests, and Teacher of the Year award culminating in Ag Day celebration at the capitol with legislators, Secretary of Agriculture, State Department of Education dignitaries, and industry directors. This past year’s theme was, “Oklahoma Agriculture-Oklahoma Strong.”

Other important projects are on-site workshops and in-service educator training, pre-service teacher workshops at 9 state universities, 3-Day Summer rolling workshop for professional development called, On the Road with Ag in the Classroom;" Statewide Ag in the Classroom teacher conference in conjunction with the Oklahoma State Department of Education’s state conference;

Two one-day conferences –You’re In Checotah Garden Workshop and Cowgirls of Oklahoma; and Increasing Partnership with Oklahoma Beef Council, Farm Credit, and other ag commodity groups.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
- Close to 100 percent of the lessons on Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom web site are aligned to the Oklahoma Academic Standards and updated regularly.
- Pre-K-8th grade teachers received curriculum to incorporate agriculture literacy into their classroom curriculum.
- 650 teachers learned about the connections available through the agricultural industry groups through summer professional development events.
- Most of the pre-service agriculture education teachers and elementary teachers at nine state universities learned the importance of teaching agriculture literacy.
- 5000 Pre-K through 8th educators and cooperative extension educators received updated OAITC information and lessons each month through the OAITC web site.
- OAITC resources sent to 100 percent (all 77) counties in Oklahoma as requested by teachers and cooperative extension educators.
- 99 percent of the teachers submitting grant proposals met the qualifications and were awarded up to $300 each.
- 13 teachers received $375 a Specialty Crop garden grant.
- Facebook Likes” passed 2,000 and is at 2,075.
Biosketch
State Contact: Dana Bessinger; dana.bessinger@ag.ok.gov

Dana Bessinger is a coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Market Development Division program Ag in the Classroom. She is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher in Early Adolescent Science who taught middle school life science and also a stint in first grade. Dana has been involved in education for 29 years. She has provided professional development for teachers across the state, presented at state and national conferences, developed resources and written lessons for Ag in the Classroom. Dana has a BS in Education and a Masters of Agriculture from Oklahoma State University. Her husband Barry is a VP for Chisholm Trail Farm Credit. She has two sons and one grandson.
Classroom Resources

Lessons:
- Gyohtaku- Fish Prints: http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/teachers/pdf/handson/fish_print.pdf
- Oregon’s Ancient Geology: http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/grown/geology.htm

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation reached 120,000 students during the last school year. We have just over 2,000 teachers on our mailing list and are working with educators in all 36 Oregon counties. We have one full time and two part-time staff with a college student intern.

We continue to distribute Get Oregonized textbooks. Get Oregonized is a history book written for students in grades three, four and five studying Oregon’s history and regions. The text is designed to help students understand and appreciate the rich history, people and natural resources that shaped the state of Oregon. Maps, illustrations and photographs complement the easy to read text. This was updated in 2013, this last year over 1,000 copies were distributed to Oregon schools.

We reached more than 18,000 students through our seventh annual literacy project featuring The Tree Farmer. Over 600 trained volunteers read to K-5 students in 32 of our 36 counties. Volunteers spent about 45 minutes in each classroom and shared their personal connection to agriculture with teachers and students.

Over 300 people attended our Fall Harvest Dinner, which is our only fundraising event. We raised $42,000 and sold 42 cases of Get Oregonized books that will be donated to schools throughout the state.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
- AITC materials and lessons were delivered to more than 120,000 students across the state.
- Three hundred fifty high school volunteers collaborated on the literacy project.
- Over 250 new teachers became partners with the program.

Biosketch

State Contact: Jessica Budge; jessica.budge@oregonstate.edu

Jessica Budge is the Executive Director for Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation. A third generation Oregonian, Jessica loves to share about the tremendous agricultural diversity in Oregon. She holds a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Speech Communication from Oregon State University. In addition to her duties with AITC, Jessica serves on the Summer Agriculture Institute Committee and the board of directors for the Oregon Ag Fest.

This is her second year as Executive Director of Oregon AITC.
Pennsylvania 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
None reported for 2014

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
PA hosted the 2014 National AITC Conference in place of our state AITC Educator’s Ag Institute. There were 501 participants from 46 states in the US and 4 Canadian territories, with 97 teachers from PA.

Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab –
- Completed 179 week-long bookings in schools across PA
- Instructed 106,250 students through hands on science experiments related to agriculture.
  65% of visits were at schools where program had been in previous years

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
106,250 students, grades k-8, were educated last year in the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab, with pre/post surveys showing an increase in Ag Literacy.

Biosketch
State Contact: Tonya Wible; tdwible@pfb.com

Tonya Wible, Program Director of the PA Friends of Ag Foundation’s Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab Program, is serving her 2nd year as PA State Contact for NAITC. Tonya’s connection to PA AITC began in 1998 when she attended Pennsylvania’s summer workshop. She returned the following year to serve as a presenter, and continued to present at the summer workshop until 2003, when she left the regular classroom to assist PA Farm Bureau’s PA Friends of Foundation with the launch of their Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab program as a means of response to the growing need for agricultural education that its members were seeing. With a BS ED in Elementary Education and a BA in Psychology from Shippensburg University, she brought to the program not only 6 years of classroom experience from her time at Chambersburg Area School District, but also a strong connection to agriculture and its importance, as she grew up on a dairy farm in Chambersburg, PA. As Program Director, she oversees all aspects of the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab: from curriculum development, to promotion, to scheduling, to school in-services and teacher training, to expansion of the program. With a better understanding of NAITC’s mission, Tonya and her colleagues within the PA Friends of Ag Foundation are working to incorporate all of their educational efforts as part of their NAITC programming, as well as expand the scope of the educational programs and resources they offer.
Rhode Island 2011 Report

Classroom Resources
None reported for 2014

We developed a DVD (video) about all the agriculture in RI and distributed it to every 6th grade in RI. It was also broadcast on cable TV. (2011)

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
None reported for 2010-2014

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
None reported for 2010-2014

Biosketch
State Contact: Al Bettencourt; ALBETTJR@aol.com

Al Bettencourt has a master’s degree in public administration and a BA in social science / secondary education. He is the executive director of RI Farm Bureau. He has worked with the RI Farm Bureau for nearly 11 years. From 1981 - 1993 he was the state executive director of the ASCS (now called FSA). He started the Ag in the Classroom program in RI in 1983. He received the administrator’s Award for Service to Agriculture in 1990 for his service to the AITC program. He turned the program over to RI Farm Bureau when he left USDA in 1993. When he returned to the Farm Bureau in 2000 he resumed running the program. He turned over the program to RICAPE in 2002. RICAPE gave it back to the Farm Bureau in 2010.
South Carolina 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- Ag Literacy Week -Who Grew My Soup?” Lesson Plans and Activities
- Fall Harvest Ag-tivity flyer
- Spring Time Ag-tivity flyers
- “Plant Parts We Eat” unit for Kindergarten thru 2nd Grade

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Approximately 11,000 students received agricultural instruction this year through our Ag Simulator Mobile Unit and its accompanying lesson plan.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
- 89% of Institute teachers surveyed said they planned to use AITC resources in their classrooms.
- 70% of this year’s workshop teachers and Institute teachers communicate about AITC lessons used through e-mail.

Biosketch
State Contact: Vonne Knight; vknight@scfb.com

Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction
SC Farm Bureau Director of Ag Literacy Programs Ag in the Classroom Program - 7 years’ service
Teacher for 29 years in both public and private schools and served as a Headmaster
South Carolina Independent School Association Master Teacher
Recognized by SCFB Federation as the 2005 Betty J. DeWitt Outstanding Educator Award winner and by the American Farm Bureau Federation as the White-Rhinehardt Agricultural Teacher Scholarship Award Winner
Prior to joining the SCFB Promotion and Education Division as the Director, she served as a contract presenter for the Ag in the Classroom Program
South Dakota 2014 Report

**Classroom Resources**
Chicks and Chickens (instructional unit) (2013)

**Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs**
None reported for 2014

**Major Program Impacts of Outcomes**
100% of SDSU graduating early childhood education majors received experience developing ag-based unit plans (2013)

**Biosketch**
State Contact: Ann Price; sdagclassroom@yahoo.com

A South Dakota native, Ann grew up on a diversified dairy farm. After attending South Dakota State University for her BS degree in dairy production and animal science, Ann spent time in Worthington, Minnesota, manufacturing livestock vaccines. Prior to her start with SDAITC in December 2011, Ann spent 5 years working for the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service as a livestock educator in Miller, teaching adults and working with the 4-H program. Ann graduated again from SDSU with her MEd degree specializing in curriculum and instruction. Ann is married to Eric and they live in Miller. They have 1 daughter.
Classroom Resources
Cowboy Dan’s Frontier: Diggin’ in the Dirt" is a video about school gardens and learning to work. www.cowboydan.com

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Our summer institutes continued to be successful.

Seventy-two Farm Days sponsored by County Farm Bureaus continued to strengthen the tie between the local schools, farms and AITC program. Another project provided 53 grants to fund counties that develop a farm tour program. The grants were awarded totaled $25,534 for farm tours. Funds were generated by the sale of Tennessee Country: In the Land of Their Fathers" a coffee-table book featuring photos and essays about Tennessee. The book was commissioned by two of Tennessee Farm Bureau’s service companies and provides 100% profit to the grant program.

The Foundation’s fundraising efforts continue to attract new donors and find new avenues for raising funds. The golf tournaments continue to attract new donors.

The Farm Bureau Women’s two cookbooks continue to sell. The Vol. I book is in its fifth printing. The books are sold through the county offices as well as phone orders handled in our state office.

The Tennessee Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom provides grants to schools that establish outdoor classroom gardens. Thirty-eight schools received funds ($13,650) this year to start or continue their garden projects. Many schools that have been funded for projects in the past have become self-sufficient.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
All of the teachers participating in our summer institutes said that they intend to incorporate AITC materials into their classroom activities. This represents a minimum of 7,500 additional students being introduced to agriculture’s role in our society. 60,000 students participated in farm tours. Volunteers representing production agriculture, agriculture businesses and associations developed displays to share with teachers and students at seventy locations.

By providing training to Extension Agents, the Foundation extends the reach of AITC materials to Tennessee’s 328,086 4-H members. Lesson plans are distributed online and on CDs to agents. Since our 4-H program is still in the schools, contact with students is maintained through teachers, agents, volunteers and AITC staff. Our Extension Agents do not list their time separately for the AITC activities since they are an integral part of 4-H.

Our partnership with the Tennessee FFA Association and the Tennessee Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association allows our materials to be used in a mentoring program. Agriculture Education teachers use our materials in their classes to reach the 31,337 students enrolled in Tennessee’s various agriculture courses. The students use our materials during mentoring opportunities with younger students during visits with elementary and middle schools. These opportunities are also excellent recruiting tools for attracting future students into agriculture education.
**Biosketch**

State Contact: Chris Fleming; cfleming@tfbf.com

Chris lives on the family beef farm in Loretto, Tennessee with his wife, Teresa and three sons, Jed, Luke and Adam. He has been involved in agricultural education in one form or another all of his life. Participating in 4-H and FFA prepared him for his decision to pursue agricultural education as a career, receiving both his B.S. and M.S. in Agriculture.

He began his career by serving as a high school Agriculture teacher for twelve years before joining Tennessee Farm Bureau’s team. Chris serves as Associate Director under Dan Strasser, Director of the Special Programs department in the areas of Agriculture in the Classroom, Young Farmers & Ranchers and Farm Bureau Women. Chris coordinates the work of eight educational consultants in providing pre- and in-service training for 1,200 teachers each year.

Chris has been involved with AITC for a total of 29 years: 12 as a classroom teacher and 17 as Tennessee Farm Bureau’s AITC coordinator.
Texas 2014 Report

Classroom Resources

- Food and Fiber for the 21st Century; [www.texasfarmbureau.org](http://www.texasfarmbureau.org)
- AITC Book Marks
- My Plate Placemats
- AITC Mobile Learning Barn Trailer
- Misconceptions About Agriculture (American Farm Bureau)
- Be Ag Smart! The Cotton Connection
- Be Ag Smart! The CORN Connection
- Be Ag Smart! The Beef Connection
- Be Ag Smart! The Dairy Connection
- PLANTING THE SEED, school visit curriculum

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs

Texas Farm Bureau AITC held pre-service training for prospective teachers in the College of Education at Texas A&M University in 2014. Approximately twenty future teachers participated in four training sessions at Texas A&M University. Each participant received a free AITC resource guide CD, plus addtional resources. 2014 marked the 20th year we held a Summer Agricultural Institute. Since its inception the Institute has trained over 325 teachers, from 110 counties across the state. We continue to hear from many of them as they report back with new ideas, projects and activities based on what they learned at the Institute. Participants received 3 hours of graduate credit and 45 clock hours of Professional Development Credit.

In 2014 there were 11 one-day workshops held around the state with a record 245 teachers attending. These workshops concentrate on training teachers to integrate agriculture across the curriculum, but with a particular focus on science.

A number of 1-3 hour mini-workshops were also held.

The nine AITC Mobile Learning Barn trailers are still popular with audiences. These MLB trailers are equipped with sides that open up to exhibit graphic displays showing the wide variety of crops and livestock grown in Texas. The Mobile Learning Barns are being exhibited at schools, shopping malls, county livestock shows and other venues where the county Farm Bureau wants to tell agriculture’s story. During 2014, over 500,000 people viewed the Mobile Learning Barns, learning about the various commodities grown in Texas.

In 2014, TFB’s Planet Agriculture continued to operate under the AITC umbrella. Planet Ag is a moveable display that covers from 3000 to 7000 square feet of exhibit space at 7 major livestock shows in the state. It contains interactive computer games, videos and graphics that highlight major commodities grown in Texas. In 2014, over 750,000 people visited Planet Ag. The Harvest Experience was viewed by more than 60,000.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes

- Nearly 500 elementary teachers participated in AITC teacher training workshops, including attendance at one of 20 full-day workshops, Summer Agricultural Institute, or in-service training.
- Over 33,000 students in grades 1-6 received agriculture instruction from teachers trained in AITC in 2014.
• Over 125,000 students participated in AITC related activities such as county Farm Bureau sponsored Ag Days.
• County Farm Bureaus spent over $22,000 for AITC resource material and to carry out county wide AITC programs in 2014.
• Over 220 county Farm Bureau member volunteers assisted with AITC programs and activities in 2014.
• Over 525,000 people viewed the nine Mobile Learning Barn trailers in 2014.
• Over 750,000 people came through the Planet Agriculture display during the seven shows it was displayed during 2014. This included elementary school students who came through in organized tours. We were able to show them the scope, diversity and importance of agriculture, and how it touches our lives daily. We were able to hand out AITC material to the teachers who accompanied the students.
• More than 22,000 students took part in Agrium’s Seed Survivor program, with TFB acting as the host organization.
• 9.150 teachers were provided curriculum, as we made our school stops.

Biosketch
State Contact: Mona Oney; monaoney@txfb.org

Mona Oney graduated from Texas A&M, Commerce, with a Bachelor of Science and Elementary Teacher’s certificate. Her teaching experiences include Reading Specialization in Kindergarten through 7th grade. Mona was born into a farming family in the Texas Panhandle, where they raised cattle, hogs, wheat, soybeans, and cotton. Currently she is actively engaged in a farming operation where she and her brother raise cotton, both irrigated and dry land, wheat, and cattle. She has been with Texas Farm Bureau for two years.
Utah 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
"Bee Line" K-6 newsletter: Our team published three issues of our elementary newsletter. Issues of this 8-page educator publication can be found on our website, utah.agclassroom.org. It is also distributed via an e-blast if the teacher requests such.

"AgroWorld" secondary e-zine: Focuses on three curriculum areas: science, technology, and society. Four issues/year (Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, April-May). As of 8/01/2013, Utah AITC uses the AgroWorld ScoopIt file prepared by NAITC.

New/revised resources were added to our e-learning site: Peas in a Pod lesson, Eggology lesson, Microbe Experimentation lesson, Ag Pays lesson, Honey Bees: A Pollination Simulation lesson, Pollination Simulation kit, Beeswax Modeling Clay kit, Origami Parts of a Flower activity and kit (Flower Power lesson), Recycled Seed Paper activity (My Little Seed House lesson), Wool Marble and Ziplock Felting Activity (Hands-on With Wool Activity), Eating Plants lesson, Parts of a Strawberry Plant bulletin board.

This site integrates our resources into a dynamic searchable curriculum map with core standards, lessons, and additional resources that are accessed in the Teacher Center along with our online course and our e-store. The resources may be browsed freely, but teachers may also save to a personal library.

Our social media presence includes a Facebook page (Utah Agriculture in the Classroom), Twitter account (Utah InterAgtion), and a Pinterest account (Utah Agriculture in the Classroom).

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Hatching Science embryology workshops, soils workshops for 4th grade teachers, heredity workshops for 5th grade teachers, STEM workshops for a variety of grade level teachers, and an AP Human Geography workshop were conducted statewide. The original 2012 Hatching Science embryology grant was extended for another year, and six workshops were held statewide. The e-store generated 780 orders resulting in $39,524 of gross sales (a slight decrease from 2013).

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
- This year 180,000 students were taught with AITC-created and statewide mandatory instructional units in science (4th grade soils, 5th grade heredity, 6th grade microorganism), K-6 nutrition, Career and Technical Education Introduction (7th grade).
- 32 K-12 teachers enrolled in ATIC’s online course in 2014. Each teacher reaches between 25 and 100 students with 10-20 hours of classroom instruction to meet state standards. That translates into 2100 students who have received 10-20 hours of AITC instruction.
- 15,000 students were reached with classroom materials (books, videos, etc.) sent out from our Resource Center.

Biosketch
State Contact: Denise Stewardson; denise.stewardson@usu.edu
Denise Stewardson is an Extension Assistant Professor at Utah State University and statewide Director of the Utah Agriculture in the Classroom program. Denise taught Career & Technical Education for five years in middle and high school programs in Maryland and Virginia. She has been at Utah State University as a conference planner (1990-1995) and an educator for 15 years. In addition to her AITC director responsibilities, Denise teaches a breadth social science course in food literacy for USU’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
Vermont 2004 Report

Classroom Resources
None reported for 2004-2014

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
None reported for 2005-2013

Open Farm Day

Development of Maple Sugaring In Vermont k-8 VT Standards Based curriculum

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
None reported for 2004-2013

Biosketch
State Contact: Vacant
Virginia 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
- The Common Thread is Agriculture cotton poster unit
- Agriculture-Imagine the Possibilities agriculture careers poster series
- My Virginia Plate nutrition poster unit
- Jump Start Your School Garden curriculum
- What’s in the Barn curriculum
- What’s in the Garden Agriculture Literacy Week activities
- Two newsletters were sent out to teachers which included information articles, lesson plans, and book suggestions. Topics were Modern Farm Machines and From Ground to Grocery Store. http://www.agintheclass.org/Teachers/Newsletters.aspx

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Virginia AITC conducted 85 professional development trainings servicing a formal and informal educators. Trainings are incorporated in university teacher preparation programs, regional summer series, schools, state and national education conferences.

Two curriculum units were developed and implemented during 2014. The spring theme was Jump Start the School Garden and the summer/fall theme was What’s in the Barn.

The fourth annual Agriculture Literacy Week was held in conjunction with National Agriculture Week and was recognized state-wide by a proclamation from the governor. The 2014 Book of the Year was What’s in the Garden by Marianne Berkes. 20000 books were read to over 53,000 students. This project continues to expand with volunteers from FFA, Southern States, Farm Credit, Virginia Farm Bureau, Virginia government officials and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
Approximately 2000 educators and volunteers attended AITC professional development trainings in 2014. Those attending report that they will impacted approximately 61,000 children within the year. 96% of educators participating in AITC programming stated that they would recommend the workshop to another teacher. Further, over 98% reported that the workshop had changed their opinion and attitude towards agriculture. 93% of participants report that they plan to share their newly acquired agricultural knowledge with another educator.

Over 13,000 visits were made to the AITC website. The lesson plan page remains the most popular page, offering teachers curriculum units, student work pages, and over 200 lesson plans.

Approximately 53,000 students were visited and read to during Agriculture Literacy Week. These students learned about fruit and vegetable life cycles as well as how various insects affect pollination and pest control. Additionally, Farm Bureau Women’s Committee volunteers reached 61,000 students through a variety of other events, which were supported by AITC.

Two newsletters were each sent to 1480 elementary schools (all public and large private in the state) on the topics of Modern Farm Machines and From Ground to Grocery Store and are available online at www.agintheclass.org.
**Biosketch**
State Contact: Tammy Maxey; tammy.maxey@vafb.com

Tammy Maxey is the Sr Education Program Coordinator for Agriculture in the Classroom in Virginia. She has been with the program since 2006. Her responsibilities include curriculum and program development as well as training. Tammy is a master educator whose educational experience includes classroom instruction and public school administration.

Tammy received her post masters certificate in administration and supervision from Virginia Commonwealth University, a master’s degree in vocational technical education from Virginia Tech, and an undergraduate degree in special education from Virginia Commonwealth University.
Washington 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Teacher Resources Ag@School; http://www.agclassroom.org/WA/pub/index.htm

WAIC publishes a student activity magazine targeted at fourth grade students. Three issues are produced each school year and class sets are mailed to subscribing classrooms in late September, early January, and mid-March. The magazines are free to requesting Washington teachers. Ag@School is designed to help teachers develop agricultural literacy without adding to an already heavy teaching load. All lessons and activities are geared to Washington’s Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and Core Curriculum Requirements. Class sets come with a Teacher Guide that includes background, discussion starters, vocabulary definitions, answers, and post-test activities. The previous 5 year’s magazines and Teacher Guides are available for viewing and/or download from the WAIC website.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
Ag@School, a full-color 8-page student magazine aimed at 4th grade, is currently our main outreach. Each of the three annual issues of Ag@School has a central theme- general Washington agriculture, agriculture technology and stewardship. Articles and activities, all featuring agriculture, meet core curriculum requirements and are easily incorporated into the existing school curriculum. The included teacher guide provides discussion starters and complementary activities.

In conjunction with The Seattle Times, WAIC produced a Newspapers In Education, 8 page color supplement focusing on Stewardship in Agriculture. The supplement will reached 1000 teachers and over 40,000 students in Washington State, in addition to the 800,000 print & online Seattle Times subscribers. The project was rated as the 7th most used NIE classroom project by teachers.

The first Annual Ag Literacy project reached out to almost 50 classrooms with the book: Who Grew My Soup". Trained volunteers read the book and provided teachers with lesson plans to preselected local elementary classrooms. The Ag Literacy project continues in 2015 with training to more volunteers and those previously trained reaching out to more classrooms.

Teacher/Classroom Grants in the amount of $500 each are being offered to groups or individuals sponsoring programs or projects that promote agricultural literacy to young people aged 5-18 years. Scholarship winners will be eligible for additional funding to attend the NAITC Conference.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
Outreach Statistics for The Seattle Times NIE project:
- Specific online visits: 3,454 Absolute Unique Visitors: 1,482
- Page Views: 95,866 Educators: 1,094 Locations: 608 Districts: 135
- Weekly Average NIE Circulation: 36,476
Biosketch
State Contact: Lisa Avery; info@waic.net

Washington Ag In the Classroom Office Manager Involvement with Washington Ag in the Classroom has combined two of Lisa’s passions: children and agriculture. Originally selected to serve on the WAIC State Board of Directors as a representative of the Washington wine grape industry, Lisa was elected and served as Board Chairman for two years, and as Board Treasurer, before becoming the Office Manager. Lisa has also been involved with Washington Farm Bureau for several years, serving as a County Board Member, County President and member of the WFB Labor Advisory Committee. Other commitments include Board Member of the Franklin County Farm Fair and FFA volunteer.
West Virginia 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Revised all of our Educational Brochures and had them available for distribution at the annual conference. The Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab revised/updated the following lessons we currently offer to Pre-K through 5th grade students: Colorful Bean - Revised lesson procedures, updated soybean uses info, obtained newest booklet “Max the Sprout” as classroom extension; Clean Sweep - Updated nutritional labels, revised lesson materials; Snack Attack - Updated nutritional labels, food items, lesson procedure sheets; Glue from Milk - Revised lesson materials; Wheat Germ DNA - Revised lesson procedure sheet; Groundhog’s Garden - Revised student lesson sheet; Take Me Out to the Cornfield - Revised student lesson sheet; Tops and Bottoms - Revised student lesson sheet.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
We held a two day Summer Agriculture Institute in 2014 with 54 teachers attending. The Mobile lab visited schools throughout the year.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
94% of teachers in 2014 said that they planned to use at least one of the activities they learned at the Summer Ag Institute.

100% of teachers would recommend our program to their friends and other teachers.

Biosketch
State Contacts:
Mark Riggleman; markr@wvfarm.org
Mary Beth Bennett; MBBennett@mail.wvu.edu

Mark Riggleman – My AA is from Fairmont State College; BA from Fairmont State University; MS from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. I joined the West Virginia Farm Bureau staff in 2012 as assistant coordinator for the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab. In May 2014, I accepted the position of coordinator. After the 2014 NAITC in Hershey, PA, I became a state contact for NAITC.

Mary Beth Bennett - I have my AA, BS, MS and Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University. I spent 2 years in Brazil with the Peace Corps between my AA and BS and 4 years in Africa between my BS and MS. I have been a County Agricultural Agent for the last 20 years and developed the West Virginia Ag in the Classroom Program by holding a Summer Agriculture Institute each year to train teachers.
Wisconsin 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
Fun Facts about Wisconsin agriculture;

Children’s Book Resources – The Beeman;

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
• Coordinated Summer Teacher Training with the University of Wisconsin-River Falls offering a two day bus tour for 27 participants and a one day classroom training for 20 participants.
• Distributed $1,799.99 to 18 teachers through a Teacher Mini-Grant program.
• Administered $8,804 of AITC matching grants to 19 local agricultural groups, schools and organizations.
• Had 2,467 students participate in the essay contest for 4-5th grade students with the topic, “Wisconsin gardens provide many healthy choices for us.”
• Administered Soybean Science Kit use to 6,713 participants using 74 kits.
• Helped distribute an additional 40,000 Amazing Corn Activity booklets.
• Increased involvement at the Wisconsin State Fair by participating in three State Fair Camp Days, reaching 500 Milwaukee youth and co-sponsored 30,000 State Fair Activity books.
• Over 80 FFA members were offered ideas during the AITC workshop at the Wisconsin FFA Convention.
• In an effort to encourage consideration of careers in agriculture, 150 Milwaukee Vincent High School students learned about opportunities through a program called Food Generation.
• Increased social media efforts via Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Created Wisconsin AITC Volunteer Facebook group for volunteers to network and share ideas about working with teachers and students.
• Ag in the Classroom volunteers Ashley Prue and Sheila Everhart received White-Reinhardt Scholarships from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
• Increased the number of students participating in the essay contest from 1,996 to 2,467.
• Increased the number of teachers reached, especially in the 1-2 hour training range from 731 to 1,005.
• Increased the number of pre-service teachers reached from 133 to 223.
• Increased the number of students reached through their teacher from 16,337 to 23,631.
Wendy Kannel has been with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau since 2010 and is the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator and Director of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation since May, 2014. As the Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Wendy works with teachers of all grade levels and volunteers to provide agriculture education resources that will help with increasing agriculture literacy across the state. As Director of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Wendy secures funding, conducts fundraisers and coordinates sponsorship programs and activities. Prior to joining the team at Farm Bureau, she was the middle and high school agriculture teacher for the Mishicot School District. Wendy earned her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and Reading Teacher Certification from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Wendy grew up on a small dairy farm in northwest Wisconsin.
Wyoming 2014 Report

Classroom Resources
WAIC has published our 2014 Country to Classroom publication. There are three different editions aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and corresponding online activity:

http://www.wyaitc.org/classroom/country.htm

WAIC is in the process of developing a comprehensive K-12 agriculture and natural resource curriculum. Kindergarten kits are currently being piloted across Wyoming.

Student bookmarks are available upon request.

Major Program Accomplishments or Outputs
• Statewide representation at educational agricultural expos to aid teachers and impact student learning of agriculture and natural resources.
• 2014 Bookmark Contest showcased student artwork and understandings of agriculture and natural resource topics. Students were honored in Cheyenne meeting Governor and First Lady Mead.
• 2014 Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Science Institute was a success in southwest Wyoming highlighting a multigenerational ranch, trona mines as well as hosting a community night with guest speaker James P. Owen.
• Celebrated 2014 Educator of the Year for Wyoming: Andrea Hayden.
• In partnership with the Wyoming Community Foundation, Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom awarded $30,181.25 to youth agriculture and natural resource projects across the state.

Major Program Impacts of Outcomes
• WAIC worked with over 300 educators in 2014.
• WAIC, with the help of educators and volunteers, impacted over 15,000 students.
• For our Educator Institute, results show a distinct pattern of improvement in agriculture and natural resource understanding when looking at pre and post surveys.
• From the surveys, WAIC found after the Institute 85% of participants feel comfortable teaching agriculture and natural resource subjects in their classroom. Previous to the Institute, 48% of participants felt they had a strong understanding of agriculture. After the Institute, 93% felt they had a strong understanding. Previous to the Institute, 52% of participants felt they had a strong understanding of natural resources. After the Institute, 100% felt they had a strong understanding.

Biosketch
State Contact: Jessie Dafoe; jdafoe@wyait.org

Jessie Dafoe joined Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom (WAIC) as their Executive Director in 2011. Prior to working for WAIC, Dafoe interned for Representative Cynthia Lummis and worked for the Wyoming Resource Alliance. Dafoe is a Wyoming native and still active on the family ranch northeast of Cheyenne. Jessie graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2010 and is a member of the 2013 Leadership Wyoming class.