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Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom - Teacher Feature



Why did you want to be a part of the MN Ag in the Classroom team as a Regional Ag Literacy Specialist and what region/area of MN are you in?

I am excited to join the MN Ag in the Classroom team. My interest in joining the team stems from my background in education and also my background growing up in a farming community. I found it to be a great fit for me since I have such a passion for the Ag field and love working with students and teachers.

How has agriculture and the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Program impacted your students and instruction? (or life in general)

Growing up on a small farm in WI, I have developed a strong appreciation for the land and animals. It has shaped my life as an adult as well. I live out in the country with chickens, bees, a small orchard and a large veggie garden. I think it is exciting to watch something grow from a seed to my dinner plate and my excitement is

hopefully contagious when I am teaching others!

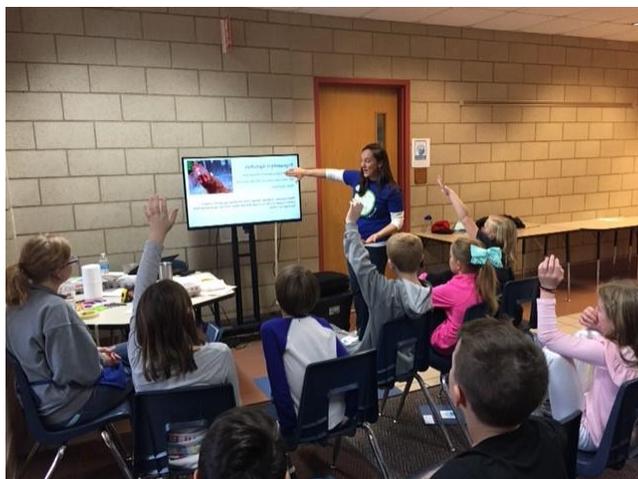
Describe any agriculture based projects you have been involved in lately.

I am currently working with a few schools to help incorporate Ag into their curriculum. I am helping one school create an Ag theme for their year that includes monthly school-wide lessons. I will be speaking at one Elementary school's STEM Fest to demonstrate Agricultural Engineering with a hands-on student activity. I'm busy planning an Ag Teacher Tour for this summer in the west Metro Area. Let me know how I can be a resource for you or your school!



What advice do you have for other teachers on implementing agriculture into their classroom/program?

It's fun! It's easy! We are here to help! MN Ag in the Classroom makes it easy for teachers to embed Ag lessons into their core content areas. Our lessons are tied to the standards, are engaging and fun to use. The exciting part is that we have Regional Literacy Specialists (like me!) that are available as a resource. I would recommend that all teachers check out the curriculum matrix on the MN Ag in the Classroom website – it's great. Also, don't forget to check out all of the FREE resources available to teachers like the AgMag which are also listed on the



website. And if it seems overwhelming, ask us to come to your school and walk you through it. We are happy to help!

Why do you believe it is important for our students to be agriculturally literate and aware in today's society?

It is important for everyone to understand the importance of the Ag industry in our lives. Making connections to the food we eat and the things around us helps make us better consumers and creates an awareness of the importance of our environment and natural resources. A lot of people think that Agriculture means farmers, but it is so much more. By helping our students understand everything that makes up the Agriculture field we are also sparking curiosity and bringing to life the opportunities there are for them in the Agriculture industry. As our population grows and the amount of land stays the same, we will need agriculturally literate young people who care. Who knows, in the process we may be creating future farmers and Ag industry leaders!

