

Agriculture in the Classroom Monthly Update – Feb. 2012:

It looks like many of you have survived the first 100 days of school! Summer vacation will be here soon. We want to thank each of you for participating in the Agriculture in the Classroom Program. Here are your monthly updates:

New Corn Curriculum to be Released Soon:

The new corn curriculum "The Fantastic Corn Quest" is hot off the press. It is a book geared for grades 3-5 explaining corn from field to your fork. We just need to finish up the supplemental teachers guide and it will be ready for your classroom. A notice will be sent via email when it is available for purchase.

National Agriculture Day and Week:

March 8th marks National Agriculture Day. It falls during National Agriculture Week, March 4-10, 2012, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. In recognition of this special week, we will be sending out free curriculum to all our pen pal participants! Our K-2 classrooms will receive a copy of our resource "Cheeseburger Activities." The 3-5 classrooms will receive our new "Beef Reader" resource. Watch for them in the mail! We hope you incorporate a special agricultural lesson into your school curriculum during this special week.

Nebraska's Teachers of the year are announced:

We want to congratulate this year's winners of the prestigious honor of Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year. Award recipients are: Greg Tebo of Maxey Elementary in Lincoln and Carma Weisbrook of Mary Lynch School in Kimball. They have received an all-expense paid trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference that will be held in Loveland, Colorado in June. We want to thank the many teachers who applied for this honor and encourage each of you to apply next year. Teachers in Nebraska are doing such great things and we want to recognize them for their agricultural efforts.

Share Your Story!:

Are you doing something cool in your classroom to incorporate agriculture into your curriculum? If so, email Deanna Karmazin at deannak@nefb.org a quick explanation of what you are doing and send some pictures. We would love to feature you in our next monthly update! What a better way to share and discover new learning techniques and lessons to amp up agricultural literacy in your classroom.

Cool Agricultural Facts:

Here is a website featuring some fun ag facts for your classroom:
http://www.agday.org/education/fun_facts.php

A Dirty Lesson:

Are you teaching a unit on soil? Here is a cool website featuring educational lessons, videos and activities based around soil science. Check it out: <http://www.doctordirt.org/>

Climate Maps:

Is your classroom studying the climate? The National Atlas has prepared colorful climate maps of the United States that you can print or use online. These maps display information on temperature extremes, humidity, precipitation and more. Precipitation maps were prepared for individual states and for the conterminous states. To find them, check out this awesome website: <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/printable/climatemap.html#list>