What is Ag in the Classroom?

- **Nationally:** Established in 1981 by the USDA
  - Grassroots organization
  - AITC in all 50 states, plus 5 territories
- **Indiana:** Program coordinated by Indiana Farm Bureau
  - Uses network of more than 100 volunteers
  - In 2015: Volunteers educated 49,000+ K-12 students about farming.
    - Nearly half in grades K-2
- **Mission:** Increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education.
  - Integrate agriculture into all school subjects
  - Use hands-on teaching tools, activities and literacy pieces

What it means to be Agriculturally Literate

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

How can I become a volunteer?

**Becoming an IN AITC Volunteer**

- Be an Indiana Farm Bureau member
- Have knowledge and passion about one or more areas of agriculture and farming.
- Experienced presenter or educator
- Complete a local, regional or state AITC Training/Orientation session
  - Volunteer Registration worksheet
  - Sign Code of Conduct

**Traditional Volunteer Roles**

- Classroom guest speaker
- Before or after school program activity leader
  - ex. Library, Boys and Girls Club
- Non-school youth activity facilitator
  - ex. 4-H, Girl or Boy Scouts
- County Farm Bureau activities
  - ex. Ag Day, County Fair, Local Festival

**Non-Traditional Opportunities**

- Share resources with local teachers
- Work with local FFA chapter on conducting outreach programming
- Virtual Field Trips
  - “Skype” with classrooms to visit to your farm
7 Super Easy Ways to Educate About Agriculture in Your Area.

1. **Play My American Farm**
   - Free and fun, My American Farm games are correlated to educational standards.

2. **Read an Accurate Ag Book**
   - Volunteer in a local school or library program. Read a book, talk about your operation or how agriculture is everywhere. Do an ag activity.

3. **Become a Pen Pal**

4. **Skype with a Classroom**

5. **Share the Addressing Misconceptions Tool**
   - Looks at some of the common misconceptions the public has about agriculture and offers a series of fact-based issues. Use in the classroom, in the office, through social media, at fairs, with student leadership organizations and more.

6. **Have a Conversation**
   - Tell your story! In a store, at church, in a classroom, at a fair! There are lots of consumers out there willing to listen.

7. **Tweet, post, blog, 'gram, etc.**
   - Social media is an excellent way to share your story, it is free, fast and easy!

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**My American Farm**

[www.myamericanfarm.com](http://www.myamericanfarm.com)
My American Farm

Production Fill In
Directions: Below are several statements which share important facts about American agriculture. Use the word bank to fill in the missing words in each sentence.
- Tip: Remove key from bottom before making copies.
- Idea: Create your own Fill-In based on the topic you are going to educate your audience about.

New Indiana Resources

- INAgMag
  - 12 page, full-color magazine about Indiana agriculture
  - Targets grades 3-6
  - 4th grade reading level
  - Includes
    - Activities
    - Topics: corn, soybeans, pork, poultry, dairly, biotechnology, food, expiration, farm to plate cycle, agriculture in history

Being Accurate with Ag Literacy

- Accurate Ag Book List
  - Books have been reviewed and identified as accurately depicting modern agriculture
  - Oh Say Can You Seed? by Bonnie Worth
  - Fast Paced to the Table by Susan Grigsby
  - The Beef Princess of Practical County by Michelle Houts
  - The Beeman by Laurie Krebs and Valerie Cis

More titles are available online at: www.agfoundation.org > Ag Literacy > Book Database > click on “Find Books” for a complete list of Accurate Ag Books, if you want to narrow your search, complete the fields accordingly.

Food and Farm Facts

- Available at www.fb.org/orders
- Activity Cards Education Standards based
- Perfect for grade 4 through adult
  - Food & Farm Facts book and US commodity map - $4.25 + S&H
  - 2 different sets of Activity cards
    - Grades 4-6 - $6.00 + S&H
    - Grades 7-12 - $6.00 + S&H

Activity

100 Facts About Agriculture
100 Facts About Agriculture
from Agricultural Activities for Every Classroom

Activity Description
• Challenge students to list 100 facts they know about agriculture.
• Prepare 100 paper slips using a variety of colors.
• Have each student write a fact on a slip of paper and construct a paper chain.
• Hang the paper chain in your classroom to show off your class’s ag knowledge

Let’s Give it a Try!
• Pink – Indiana ag fact
• Blue – Livestock fact
• Green – Crop fact
• Yellow – Farmer fact
• White – Fun ag fact

Activity
Addressing Misconceptions

Addressing Misconceptions in Agriculture

Addressing Misconceptions Resources & Activities
• Credibility Checklist
• Printable List of Misconceptions
• Suggested Activities

Using Social Media to Educate
Activity
Ag Lib – Mad Lib

Environment Fill-In
2014 Food and Farm Fact Activity Cards grades 4-6

• Inspired by popular Mad Libs™
• Students practice vocabulary knowledge
• Leads to a discussion or lesson about how farmers care for animals and the environment.

Parts of Speech Refresher Course

Verbs
Talk about the action or the state of any noun or subject. Verbs show what the subject is doing.

Add Allow Bake Bang Call
Drop End Fly Gather Grab
Knit Land Look March Mix
Talk Turn Use Visit Walk
Work sweep Pull Punch Hope

Insert
text here

Noun
Words that name people, places, things or ideas.

Adjective
Words that describe people, places, things or ideas.

Insert
text here

Environment Fill-In
If I owned a farm, I would grow ____________________________ and raise ____________________________.
(1. Fruit, vegetable, or other plant)
(2. Animal)

I would take care of the soil by ____________________________ and ____________________________ because we know that ____________________________ need good soil to grow. My animals would be healthy and comfortable
because I would give them ____________________________ and ____________________________ . Healthy animals
make delicious ____________________________ and eggs. The air would be ____________________________ at my farm and the water would be ____________________________ . I know this would be hard work, but that's ok, because I'm a farmer! My job is to take care of plants, animals and the environment.
Environment Fill-In

• Other ways to use
  – Introduction to encourage young Ag enthusiasts to share their story
    • if they aren’t telling their own story, someone else is.
  – Encourage your audience to seek out reputable sources of information
    • Don’t believe everything they read or watch on the internet.

Julie Taylor, education coordinator
jtaylor@infarmbureau.org