

AITC Website Update More Than Just a Pretty Homepage

We heard you loud and clear across the state — hundreds of you requested on-demand resources and plenty of them to fuel your passion for teaching agriculture in the classroom.

We're so happy to oblige! Welcome to the NEW Louisiana Ag in the Classroom website, recently overhauled to provide easier navigation, many more downloadable ag-tivities, lesson plans and maps, and videos about agriculture from the state's longest-running ag-focused television show, "This Week in Louisiana Agriculture," to share with your students. It's taken a lot of hard work and a lot of time — but the result is worth it, because YOU are worth it.

The site has been designed to provide a "one-stop shop" for all your Ag Literacy needs. Please take time to get familiar with the many new features of the site.

One of the goals of the new site design is to have all materials available as electronic files for you to download whenever possible. The Teacher Resources section is where you'll find lesson plans, make-and-takes and commodity guides.

The Resources section will continue to be populated as we update our materials — we want you to have the latest information about one of our state's most valuable industries.



Come see how we've grown! The Louisiana AITC website has been updated with easier navigation, a new look and lots more content to help you teach the value of agriculture to your students. Check us out today at www.aitcla.org, and be sure to bookmark us for frequent return visits!

Fall workshops are right around the corner and this improved site will allow easy on-line registration. For a listing of dates and locations and to register for a workshop near you, visit the Workshop section. Go to www.aitcla.org to check your new resource out, and be sure to bookmark it for frequent future visits. We'll see you soon!



Fall 2010 | www.aitcla.org

Fall Workshops to Sweep State

FREE program hopes to reach more educators than ever with 13 workshops across Louisiana

With the new school year just beginning, why not add new lessons to the mix? Attend a FREE Agriculture in the Classroom workshop in your area this fall and harvest many new ideas, lessons and ag-tivities.

Louisiana's Ag in the Classroom program will once again hold statewide workshops this fall. Simply select the one that is most convenient for you. You can also help us share the bounty of learning by promoting this opportunity with others at your school.

The Ag in the Classroom program is designed to help students understand more about their renewable sources of food, fiber and fuel. Ag in the Classroom develops and distributes lesson plans that enrich your curriculum by incorporating agriculture into a wide variety of subject areas.

This year's training has something for grade levels Pre-K through grade 8. These hands-on workshops are free to educators and include many activities to help you integrate agriculture into your curriculum. You'll also be happy to know they are correlated to state grade-level expectations. All educators in attendance will take home a wealth of lessons, ag-tivities and other materials for use in your classroom. You will also receive a certificate of attendance documenting your professional growth.

Two brand-new educational units will be introduced at this year's workshops:

Water is the theme of one of this year's units, covering the importance of water to life, water quality, water quantity and agricultural use of water.

The state's **equine** industry provides the basis for our second new unit. Horses have become a major industry in our state. The Louisiana Farm Bureau has developed a video to complement the lessons.

Pre-registration is necessary for all workshops, so select the workshop that is the most convenient for you to attend and register as soon as possible, as most classes are limited to 30 participants. Register online at www.aitcla.org, or by faxing the registration form inside this newsletter to (225) 922-6229. Unless otherwise indicated, all workshops begin at 4 p.m. with a meal and/or refreshments. If you have any questions, please call Lynda Danos, AITC State Coordinator, at (225) 922-6503 or Cyndi Guercio, program assistant, at (225) 922-6204.

2010 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 14

Lafayette Farm Bureau
101 Toledo Drive, **Lafayette**

Wednesday, September 15
Lafourche Parish Ag Building
115 Texas Street, **Raceland**

Monday, September 20
Thomas Jason Lingo
Community Center
10284 Louisiana Hwy 17,
Oak Grove

Tuesday, September 21
Morehouse School Board
Educational Resource Ctr
714 South Washington St.,
Bastrop

Tuesday, October 5
St. Charles Parish AgCenter
1313 Paul Maillard Road,
Suite E, **Luling**

Thursday, October 7
Lomax Hall
Louisiana Tech, **Ruston**

Tuesday, October 12
Iberville Parish Farm Bureau
58955 Belleview Drive,
Plaquemine

Tuesday, October 12

Assumption Parish AgCenter
119 Robin Street,
Napoleonville

Monday, October 18
St. Landry School Board
Office, 1013 Creswell Lane,
Opelousas

Tuesday, October 19
Calcasieu AgCenter
Gulf Highway, **Lake Charles**

Monday, October 25
Sabine Parish Farm Bureau
575 Hwy. 171 Bypass, **Many**

Tuesday, October 26
DeSoto Parish Media Center
523 Oxford Road, **Mansfield**

Wednesday, October 27
Acadia Farm Bureau
21130 Crowley Eunice Hwy.,
Crowley

See page 2 for workshop registration details!

Post Office Box 95004
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004
Ag in the Classroom Louisiana

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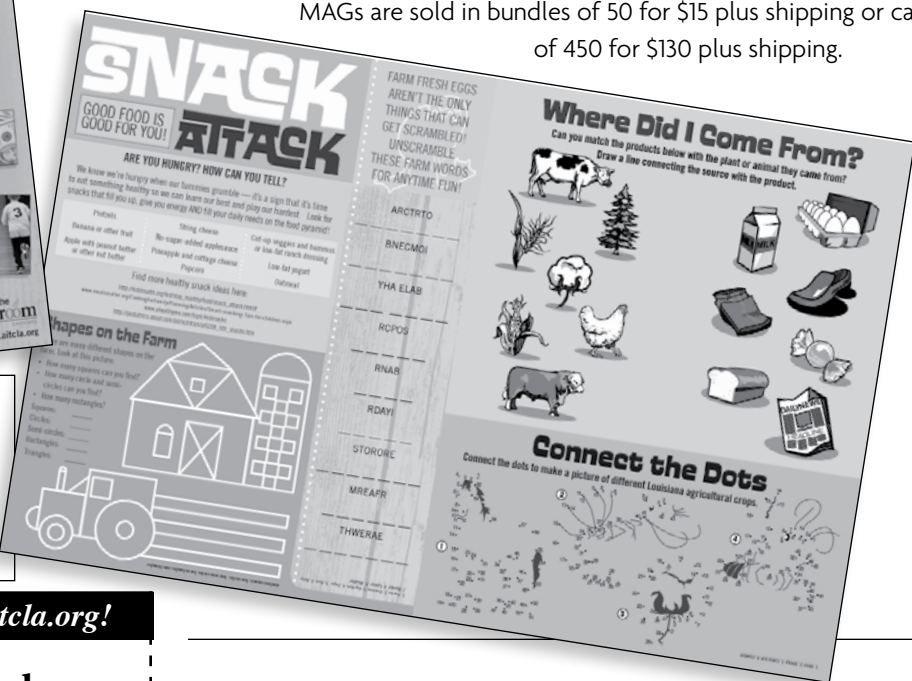
Louisiana's AG MAG Filled With Colorful Fun for Kids



There are plenty of things young kids can learn about agriculture, and Louisiana Ag in the Classroom's new AG MAG gathers lots of learning in one colorful place!

Engaging and easy to read, the AG MAG is an eight-page booklet filled with games and puzzles about Louisiana agriculture for students K-4. They'll have a blast playing, and you'll think learning was never so fun!

The AG MAG will be available at this fall's AITC workshops, or get a head start on the fun — just contact program assistant Cyndi Guercio at (225) 922-6204 to order. AG MAGs are sold in bundles of 50 for \$15 plus shipping or cases of 450 for \$130 plus shipping.



The Ag Mag and other fun and unique learning tools are waiting for you on our completely redesigned website, www.aitcla.org!

Save Time — register online at aitcla.org!

2010 Louisiana AITC Workshop Registration Form

Thank you for your interest in attending one of our workshops! You may register online at aitcla.org or complete this form and fax it to (225) 922-6229.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Grade Taught _____

School _____

Parish _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Workshop Location _____

Workshop Date _____

* Note: Registration deadline is 10 days prior to the workshop date.

Driving Home the Importance of Ag

Want to show your commitment to educating our future generations about agriculture? Grab a plate!

The AG TAG proudly shows other drivers YOUR commitment to Louisiana agriculture! What's more, a portion of your purchase price goes to supporting the very program you've already benefited from!

To purchase your AG TAG, call the Department of Motor Vehicles' Prestige Plate Division at 225-925-6364 when renewing your tag or purchasing a new one.

The cost is just \$22.50 in addition to regular license tag fees. Each plate sold brings \$19 to the Louisiana Ag in the Classroom Foundation, Inc.

Show your support for Louisiana's farmers and ranchers with an AG TAG today, and keep agriculture "growing strong" in Louisiana.



Learn more fun classroom "ag-tivities" like this one at our statewide Fall workshops!

DESKTOP GARDEN

Create a tiny garden for your students' desktops.

Level: grades 2 - 5

Materials:

- 1 clean jar lid per student*
- Water
- Paper towels
- Seeds (fast-growing seeds like mustard, cress or most other small seeds)
- Cardboard
- Decorations

* Peanut butter jar or plastic soup cup lids are ideal

Procedure:

1. Each student will need a clean lid.
2. Lay a damp paper towel inside the lid.
3. Sprinkle seeds on the paper towel. Be sure to leave room for small rocks or other decorations for your garden.
4. Cover the lid with a thin piece of cardboard to block the light.
5. Check your garden every day until you see shoots growing, then remove the

cardboard. The paper towel must be kept moist.

6. Once seeds have sprouted, let them grow by watering your desktop garden regularly. Decorate your gardens with rocks, marbles, etc.

Explorations and Extensions:

English Language Arts

- Have students keep a journal of the growth stages of their desktop garden.
- Have students create a poem about their garden.

Science

- Create an experiment with the desktop gardens. Separate the gardens into groups and see how they do with varying amounts of water or light. Compare the growth of the different seed types. Which does better? Have students explain why one kind of seed may not grow in differing conditions.

Adapted from California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom from the *The Gardening Book* by Jane Bull

Making More Than a Grain of Sense: Louisiana Celebrates Rice in September

In Louisiana, rice is an integral part of Louisiana culture and cuisine, so Louisiana's Ag in the Classroom program celebrates this essential grain every year in September, Capitol Rice Month.

The nation's third-largest rice producer, Louisiana rice producers grow the crop in 27 parishes on nearly 400,000 acres of land. The production and processing of rice in the state has an economic impact of more than \$300 million and thousands of jobs.

Louisiana primarily grows long-grain rice, which has cooked grains that are separate and fluffy. Rice is a naturally nutritious grain that is low in calories. Enriched white and whole grain brown rice is sodium and cholesterol-free and has no trans- or saturated fat. Rice contributes more than 15 important vitamins and minerals and provides natural energy by supplying carbohydrates that fuel physical activity. It also is gluten-free, making it the least allergenic of all the grains.

To celebrate National Rice Month with Louisiana rice farmers and learn more about rice, visit www.usarice.com. Be sure to check out the "Tools for School" section, located under the Consumer tab. And, if you need one more reason to celebrate, Louisiana rice grower Jackie Loewer was just named USA Rice Federation chair, bringing an even greater spotlight to this state's proud rice-growing history.



Find Even More Resources: National Ag in the Classroom's Resource Directory

Planning to introduce an extended learning unit on crops found outside of Louisiana? Looking for lesson plans targeting high school students? We've got you covered.

The National Ag in the Classroom Foundation, found online at agclassroom.org, hosts the National Resource Directory, an online searchable database that lists hundreds of educational resources designed to help educators locate high quality classroom materials and information to increase agricultural literacy among their Pre-K through 12th grade students.

Simply type in a keyword (i.e. "wool") and a list of lesson plans for that commodity pops up with lesson descriptions and the appropriate grade level indicated.

Adding to the convenience are the site's "Featured Resources," updated each month and often reflecting a theme.

All About Pumpkins

Pumpkins have been grown in America for more than 5,000 years. One of the first crops grown in America, pumpkins are actually a fruit, and a very useful one to the early inhabitants of our country! The Indians and Pilgrims used them for food and decorations. The Pilgrims also made the pumpkin shells into bowls and jars. They used the bowls for eating and the jars to keep their grains and seeds.

Just like people, plants also have families. They don't always look alike, but they do have similarities. Pumpkins and other squashes, as well as plants such as cucumbers, gourds and melons, are part of the Cucurbitaceae (kew-kur-bi-TAY-see-ee) family. Do you know what they have in common? Think about the creeping vines, big leaves, the golden flowers and the fruit. Some of the closest relatives to pumpkins are zucchini and acorn squash.

Source: Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom