

Workshops, continued from page 1

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. Register online at www.aitcla.org or by returning the registration form below as soon as possible. Unless otherwise indicated, all workshops begin at 4:30 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.

2009 AITC Workshop Registration Form

Thank you for your interest in attending one of our workshops! You may register online at www.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.



Fall 2009 | www.aitcla.org

Fall Workshops to Sweep State

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

Fall is the perfect time to reflect on the bounty agriculture provides. Attend an Agriculture in the Classroom workshop this fall and harvest many new ideas, lessons and ag-tivities.

Louisiana Ag in the Classroom is once again holding statewide workshops — simply select the one that is most convenient for you. You can also help us share the harvest 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 to enrich your curriculum by incorporating agriculture into a wide variety of subject areas.

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

Two new educational units will be introduced at this year's workshops. "The Farmer Grows a Rainbow" is a MyPyramid companion resource. MyPyramid is the food guide pyramid developed by the USDA. The goal of "The Farmer Grows a Rainbow" is to enhance MyPyramid lessons, integrate them with traditional academic subjects and emphasize the vital role played by the farmer in food production. This educational unit includes lessons for pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade. Each grade level has both a classroom lesson and a physical activity component.

The second unit that will be presented this year is based around Louisiana's precious commodity, crawfish. The Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research Board has developed a lesson unit that will debut at the workshops. The Louisiana Farm Bureau has also developed a video to complement the lessons.

See "Workshops," continued on p. 4

2009 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

<u>Thursday, September 10</u> East St. John High School #1 Wildcat Drive, Reserve	<u>Thursday, October 8</u> Lomax Hall Louisiana Tech, Ruston
<u>Tuesday, September 15</u> Albany Lower Elementary 30020 W Murray St, Albany	<u>Tuesday, October 13</u> Calcasieu AgCenter Gulf Hwy, Lake Charles
<u>Thursday, September 17</u> Natchitoches Farm Bureau 1191 Hwy. 1 S, Natchitoches	<u>Wednesday, October 21</u> West Baton Rouge AgCenter 210 Turner Road, Port Allen
<u>Monday, September 21</u> Thomas Jason Lingo Community Center 10284 Louisiana Hwy 17, Oak Grove	<u>Tuesday, October 20</u> St. Landry School Board Ofc. 1013 Creswell Lane, Opelou- sas
<u>Tuesday, September 22</u> Morehouse School Board Educational Resource Ctr 714 South Washington St., Bastrop <i>* Workshop begins at 3:30</i>	<u>Thursday, October 22</u> DeSoto Parish Media Center 523 Oxford Road, Mansfield
<u>Wednesday, September 23</u> Lafourche Parish Farm Bureau Office 5558 Hwy. 1, Lockport	<u>Tuesday, October 27</u> Acadia Farm Bureau 21130 Crowley Eunice Hwy, Crowley See page 4 for workshop registration details!
<u>Thursday, October 1</u> Woodvale Elementary 100 Leon Drive, Lafayette	



Securing Our Food Future

By Stewart Truelsen
American Farm Bureau Staff Writer

Imagine this real-life scenario: a young couple planting vegetables at a public garden. The plot they rented is just large enough for them to grow a supply of tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, green beans and zucchini over the summer.

The problem is the pair obviously knows little if anything about gardening. They have one tool, a trowel with an extended handle. The soil had been tilled awhile back by the city but consisted of so much clay that the surface was now hard. The man was able to turn over only the top two or three inches of ground.

This struggle continued for a short time before there was a rain shower and the couple left their tray of vegetable plants and fled. Even if they finish the garden, their ordeal is not over. They have to contend with rabbits, because the garden cannot be fenced, and with insects that will chew on the surviving plants and reduce the harvest. They also have to water the garden periodically unless there is sufficient rainfall during the growing season.

Even the experienced gardener will be tempted to frequent farmers' markets instead, after totaling up the cost of seeds, starter plants, top soil, peat moss, fertilizer and the time spent weeding and watering.

Of course, gardening can be an enjoyable, rewarding experience as well as a challenge, and it does serve to drive home a point. We'd all be in deep trouble without professional farmers. If growing fruit and vegetables seems difficult, then don't even think about raising animals for meat, milk and eggs.

The veteran gardener may have a vague idea of what it takes to farm, but novice gardeners generally do not, unless they have been exposed to programs like Agriculture in the Classroom. What they hear in the media, however, is often critical of mainstream agriculture and the nation's food system.



Government farm programs are scorned as unnecessary subsidies and agricultural research projects are held up to ridicule. "Don't we know enough about honeybees and pigs already?" scoffs the urban politician. "Why worry about food shortages when many Americans are overweight? Who needs commercial farms; we can grow all our food on community farms. Why issue grazing permits for public lands; can't those ranchers take their cows somewhere else?"

The less Americans really know and understand about food and agriculture the more we set ourselves up for a food crisis. The Futurist magazine took a look at possible "wild card" future events, the ones that catch us by surprise, and determined that "a food crisis might make the mortgage crisis seem mild by comparison." The article by futurist John Rockefeller theorized that losing a reliable food supply was worse than losing a home.

But averting a food crisis does not mean placing agriculture's future in the hands of the government as was done with financial institutions and U.S. automakers. The federal government can indeed print money, but don't count on it to grow your food.

Professional farmers and ranchers, both big and small operators, conventional and organic, are the ones who will keep the wild card of food shortages far from the top of the deck. Our nation's food security depends on it.

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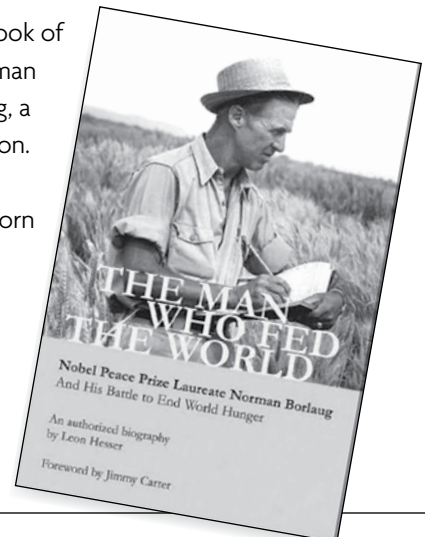
Between the Lines

'The Man Who Fed the World' Named 2009 American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Book of the Year

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture presented its second annual "Book of the Year" award to Leon Hesser for *The Man Who Fed the World*, his biography of Dr. Norman Borlaug. It is an amazing biography that engages the reader in the story of Norman Borlaug, a man who saved the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the globe from starvation.

The book takes us back to the days after World War II when one-third of the world's people were on the verge of starvation. Borlaug introduced simple technologies such as corn hybrids and short-strawed, disease-resistant wheat to farmers in developing countries. Substantial yield increases, helped avert a brewing global food crisis. In 1970, Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to preventing hunger and famine in developing countries. To order *The Man Who Fed the World*, visit www.ageducate.org.

Author: Leon Hesser **Publisher:** Durban House **Copyright:** 2006
Grade Level: ages 12 through adult



Celebrate September the RICE Way

September is National Rice Month! In Louisiana, rice is an integral part of Louisiana culture and cuisine. The state is the nation's third-largest rice producer. Rice is produced 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.



Rice was first introduced to the state in 1718 by French explorers. It wasn't until the 1800's with the coming of the railroad and discoveries made by Dr. Seaman A. Knapp that rice production took off in the state. Technological advances in farm machinery, irrigation pumps and agricultural research have made rice farming profitable. A very special combination of climate and terrain is necessary to produce the high quality rice for which Louisiana is known. The primary rice production and milling areas of the state are centered in the southwestern part of the state with significant acreage also found in the northeastern part of the state.

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, which can be found under the consumer tab.

Try this yummy treat for an awesome recipe that includes a rice product.

Happy Trails Rice Mix

2 cups bite-size crispy rice squares	1 cup dry roasted peanuts
2 cups bite-size crispy corn squares	1 cup chocolate candies
2 cups puffed rice	1 cup seedless raisins
1 cup dried banana chips	

In a large bowl, combine rice squares, corn squares, puffed rice, banana chips, peanuts, candies and raisins; mix well. Store in tightly covered container.

Makes 10 servings

Article courtesy of USA Rice Federation. Recipe thanks to the Louisiana Rice Promotion Board

American Farm Bureau Women's Committee Again Offering Ag Educators Mini-Grants

The White-Reinhardt Fund is a special project of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture in cooperation with the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee. Mini-grants are offered to state and county Farm Bureaus in amounts up to \$500 for classroom education programs for grades K-12. The purpose of this fund is to support projects that promote agricultural literacy. While grants are not available to individual classroom teachers, partnering with a parish Farm Bureau may be possible. For more information on how you can apply, contact your parish Farm Bureau office. The deadline for parishes to submit application to the state Farm Bureau office is Oct. 15, 2009. Mini-grant recipients will be announced by Feb. 1, 2010.

Louisiana RICE Awesome!

Louisiana Rice farmers want to teach fourth-grade students a lesson.

The Louisiana Rice Promotion Board, which represents the state's rice farmers, has created a workbook specifically for Louisiana fourth-grade students. The workbook contains exercises, questions and information designed to help fourth-graders prepare for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) examinations. About 17,000 fourth-grade students in 27 rice-growing parishes have received copies of the workbook.

"Education is extremely important to rice farmers and millers because so many in our industry have children," explained Kevin Berken, chairman of the Louisiana Rice Promotion Board. "We also want to promote awareness and understanding of the rice industry. We hope students, teachers and parents will have a greater appreciation of the rice farming industry because of this project."

The workbook, titled "Louisiana Rice AWESOME," has sections on language arts, math, and social studies. It contains the story of a fictional rice farmer, Harvey Heinen, and relates how his farm helps support his family and fuel the local economy. By reading the workbook and doing the exercises, students will get a better understanding of rice farming and how it is integrated into Louisiana's culture and commerce.

The Louisiana Rice Promotion Board plans on continuing this project in the upcoming school year.

