

Student Photo Contest Applies Ag in the Classroom Lessons

Junior high, high school students focus on agriculture through Louisiana Farm Bureau Photo Contest

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation's Community Outreach program recently announced the 2008 Farm Bureau photo contest. Open to junior high and high school students across the state, the deadline for photo submission is Thursday, May 1.

"The Louisiana Farm Bureau is very excited about this project and its impact on the young people of our state," said Lauren Thom, community outreach coordinator and organizer of the contest. "This is the sixth year we will hold the competition, and every year more young people participate. It is inspiring to see the love these students have for rural life and the many ways they interpret that love through the camera's lens."

Thom added that contest organizers will gather selected entries to publish a 2009 calendar featuring past and current winners' work.

"This is yet another way we can become part of young peoples' lives through creativity, vision and the ability to participate in a dialog about what agriculture means to each of



us," she said. "I hope all teachers of eligible students promote this contest among their students. Winners receive significant recognition for their efforts, as well as cash awards."

First Prize:	\$250
Second Prize:	\$150
Third Prize:	\$100
Honorable Mention(s):	\$50

Visit www.lfbf.org/photocontest for photo submission details, rules, downloadable forms and more. Please encourage your students to give us their best shot by participating in this year's Louisiana Farm Bureau Photo Contest!



Sow, Grow & Know

Spring 2008 | www.aitcla.org

National Ag Day Celebration '08 Scheduled for First Day of Spring

Resources for educators available online at www.agday.org

If you're reading this newsletter, you're already passionate about introducing the world of learning to your students through agriculture. However, the subject just got even more exciting! National Ag Day 2008 is scheduled for March 20, 2008 to coincide with the first day of Spring.

Ag Day is about recognizing and celebrating the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products

Teachers across the United States can find lesson plans, classroom activity suggestions, and more on the national Ag Day website, www.agday.org. Never has it been easier or more exciting to introduce your students to agriculture and its applications across education.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution. This is particularly the case in our schools, where students may only be exposed to agriculture if they enroll in related vocational training.

On the National Ag Day website, educators can find background information on how U.S. agriculture has changed — becoming ever more efficient and affordable — and why. There are activity guidelines, event suggestions and tips for promoting your event. Reading lists, agricultural career guides and an extensive array of helpful ag websites offer year-round reference points for you and your class.

Truly, if you weren't excited before about agriculture and the opportunities it provides to educate, entertain and enlighten your students, you WILL be after you go to this website!

Don't forget to take photos of how you and your class or school celebrated Ag Day 2008. We'd love to share with other educators what you did, how you did it and what your results were. Send info to laurent@lfbf.org, and your tips, tricks and photos will be published in April on the Louisiana Ag in the Classroom website, www.aitcla.org.



AITC Workshops Return This Fall

Ag-Savvy Educators Bring More to the Teaching Experience

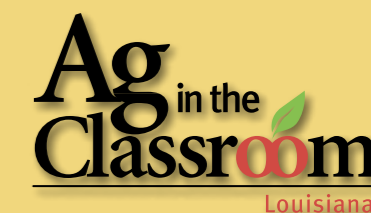
The Ag in the Classroom program will once again host educator workshops this fall. As always, the workshops are FREE to educators interested in learning new ways to cultivate their students' interest in math, science, language, social studies and more.

This fall's focus is an important, newly-released unit, "Addressing Misconceptions about Agriculture."

AITC's hands-on workshops include many activities designed to help educators integrate agriculture into their curriculum and achieve state benchmarks and grade level expectations.

Our goal this year is to schedule 20 workshop statewide. The workshop schedule will be posted on our Ag in the Classroom website, www.aitcla.org, by Aug. 1, 2008.

If your school or school system is interested in a workshop, please e-mail Lynda Danos at lyndad@lfbf.org to inquire about scheduling procedures.



TEACHERS! Get immediate gratification! APPLY ONLINE at www.aitcla.org!

Application for the Louisiana AITC 2008 Outstanding Teacher Award

The Louisiana Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Program is recognizing a Louisiana teacher for their achievements and efforts in teaching students the importance of agriculture.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Teachers integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula and/or certified teachers currently engaged in classroom instruction at the Pre-K through 12 level.

WHAT WILL THE WINNER RECEIVE?

A trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, June 24-28 in Costa Mesa, California, valued at up to \$1,200, and a \$500 cash award.

WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION?

Teachers must use agricultural information and/or materials within the classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Learning activities may include but are not limited to, understanding agriculture's impact on personal lives, the environment and the economy. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

EVALUATION CRITERIA*	VALUE
A. Creativity and Utilization of Agricultural Information	25 points
The degree to which sound agricultural concepts have been infused into the classroom curriculum. Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning.	
B. Interdisciplinary Approach	25 points
The degree to which agricultural concepts have been included in a variety of subjects and disciplines. Value will be placed on the approach that teaches agriculture across the curriculum.	
C. Advancement of Educational Standards	25 points
The degree to which the nominee aligns agricultural learning activities with state and/or national education standards.	
D. Student Impact	25 points
Evidence of teacher's impact on student attitudes and overall learning.	

*A panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education, and AITC will evaluate all nominations. Your name and parish will be removed from the application for judging.

HOW CAN APPLICATIONS BE SUBMITTED?

Applications must be received by March 15, 2008 at the address below if being mailed in.

Applications also may be submitted online at www.aitcla.org/teacheroftheyear no later than 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2008. Confirmation emails will be sent upon receipt of all applications. This is a firm deadline and there are no exceptions.

Mail applications to:

Lynda Danos, AITC Coordinator | Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation | P. O. Box 95004 | Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004

WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE APPLICATION?

1. A completed nomination outline.
2. Program description statements. *(See statements below)*
3. Written permission to use submitted materials at future AITC functions, on the AITC website or other appropriate public forums.
4. Any additional supporting information deemed essential to clarifying a nomination may be included in an appendix. The appendix should not be used, however, to provide additional program descriptions, but only supporting information such as pictures or student-generated projects.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Please keep descriptions brief and concise. Any supporting material may be included in an appendix.

1. Describe the unique and innovative approaches to advancing agricultural literacy in the classroom.
2. Submit a detailed lesson plan unit that includes objectives, activities, assessment and correlation to Louisiana Standards. It is recommended, but not required, that the lesson plan unit follow the Louisiana Department of Education "Making Connections" Lesson Plan format.
For more information visit: <http://mconn.doe.state.la.us/lessonplans/lptemp.doc>
3. Explain how these activities helped students better understand American agriculture's impact.

I certify that the information submitted with this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Applicant's signature further expressly grants permission to the Louisiana Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. and the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation to use these submitted materials at future Ag in the Classroom functions or appropriate public forums, to publicize in whatever manner including, but not limited to, the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation website.

Applicant's Signature

Date

NOMINATION OUTLINE (Deadline for submission is March 15, 2008)

Name _____ Phone _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School Name _____ Phone _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Grade Level _____

Subject(s) taught _____

Number of years' teaching experience _____ Number of years at current school _____

EDUCATION

Institution _____ Year _____ Degree/Certification _____

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Position _____ School/Organization _____ Dates _____

LIST ANY AWARDS AND/OR HONORS RELATED TO TEACHING
