

## AITC Hosts Three Workshops Rescheduled Due to Gustav, Ike

Hurricanes Gustav and Ike changed the plans of many in Louisiana last fall, and Louisiana's Ag in the Classroom program wasn't left out. Two of the program's annual fall workshops had to be rescheduled due to the storm, but are now slated to be held in Spring 2009. Save the dates for these valuable, FREE workshops that offer educators a wealth of classroom materials and hands-on experience in using agriculture to teach a variety of core subjects:

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**    **Lafourche Parish Farm Bureau**  
5558 Hwy, 1, Lockport

**Tuesday, Jan. 27**    **East Baton Rouge Farm Bureau**  
5355 McHost Road, Zachary

To register online for any of these workshops, log on to:  
**[http://www.aitcla.org/workshop\\_registration.html](http://www.aitcla.org/workshop_registration.html)**

## Celebrating Ag Literacy Day:

**AITC volunteers will read in classrooms across LA to celebrate agriculture April 29, 2009**

Volunteers from Louisiana's Ag in the Classroom program will visit K-4th grade classrooms across the state April 29, 2009, reading to students in the program's first celebration of National Ag Literacy Day.

Interested teachers can invite volunteers to read the 2009 featured book, "Oh Say Can You Seed," by Bonnie Worth. The book is part of The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library.

National Ag Literacy Day focuses attention on the country's ag industry and it's continued importance in our everyday lives. Ag literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans.

**For more information on Ag Literacy Day, or to invite a volunteer to read in your classroom, please contact State AITC Coordinator Lynda Danos at [lyndad@lfbf.org](mailto:lyndad@lfbf.org) or 1-225-922-6503.**

# Sow, Grow & Know

Spring 2009 | [www.aitcla.org](http://www.aitcla.org)

## 'Never Too Young' Attitude Focus of 2008 AITC Teacher of the Year

By Michael Danna

Sow, Grow & Know Staff Writer

EGAN -- It's reading time for Frances Miller's Pre-K class here at Egan Elementary School. An alphabet book about agriculture is today's literary selection.

The wide-eyed four-year-olds sit huddled around their teacher on a rug featuring farm scenes. They're waiting for the story to begin. They've heard it before, but it doesn't matter. It gives them an opportunity to show off their knowledge of farming.

"Cows give milk," one student says. It's the end of the school year and these kids know a lot about farming, thanks to Miller and the Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program. Frances Miller is the Louisiana Farm Bureau's 2008 Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year. The honor is reserved for teachers who incorporate agriculture into their daily lesson plans, while improving the educational opportunities of their students.

Egan Elementary is located in Acadia Parish, in the heart of rice growing country. But do kids who live in one of the most diverse farming communities in the state need to learn about where their food comes from?

"Absolutely, because they think everything comes from the grocery store," Miller says. "When we first started incorporating



*Frances Miller, AITC's 2008 Teacher of the Year, works with her Egan Elementary Pre-K students in the computer lab.*

AITC materials into our lessons they didn't know where much of the food they ate came from. Right now I can see they know a lot more about it now than they did in the fall."

Through the Ag in the Classroom program, Miller's Pre-K students know cows produce milk and meat, wheat is made into bread and cotton is made into clothing. Miller said farmers and their place in both the food chain and the farm economy are lessons not lost on her four-year olds.

"I have done that just by using everything in our everyday lives," she says. "When we go to lunch we talk about what's on our plate. What animal did it come from? I want them to know that everything they touch and everything they eat had to come from somewhere."

Miller was chosen from teachers across Louisiana by a panel of educators, including Lynda Danos, a veteran science teacher and coordinator of the Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program. Danos says Miller's use of the program typifies how farming and its importance can be used successfully in the classroom.

"It's a way we can recognize and reward teachers who are doing a good job in agricultural literacy and integrating agriculture into their core curriculums," Danos said. "Frances and teachers like her are shining examples of how the program works."

Miller says she's shared her AITC program materials with other teachers.

"When they see what we've done they want it," she says. "We tell them we have the information and we'll gladly make it available to them because it's a wonderful program."

As the 2008 AITC Teacher of the Year, last June Miller attended the national AITC conference in Costa Mesa, CA, courtesy of the Louisiana program. She also received \$500 cash, which she spent on materials for her classroom.

"I've used the program and will continue to use it," Miller says. "I love it, but more importantly, the kids love it."

**Ag** in the  
**Classroom**  
Louisiana

**TEACHERS! Get immediate gratification! APPLY ONLINE at [www.aitcla.org](http://www.aitcla.org)!**

## **Application for the Louisiana AITC 2009 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 23-27 in St. Louis, MO, 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.

<b>EVALUATION CRITERIA*</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
<b>A. Creativity and Utilization of Agricultural Information</b>	<b>25 points</b>
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>B. Interdisciplinary Approach</b>	<b>25 points</b>
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.	
<b>C. Advancement of Educational Standards</b>	<b>25 points</b>
The degree to which the nominee aligns agricultural learning activities with state and/or national education standards.	
<b>D. Student Impact</b>	<b>25 points</b>
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](http://www.aitcla.org/teacheroftheyear) no later than 11:59 p.m. on March 6, 2009.** 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.
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 6, 2009)*

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**

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Degree/Certification</i>

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

<i>Position</i>	<i>School/Organization</i>	<i>Dates</i>

**LIST ANY AWARDS AND/OR HONORS RELATED TO TEACHING**

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