

What is Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC)?

Agriculture in the Classroom programs are implemented by state-operated programs. National Agriculture in the Classroom supports state programs by providing a network that seeks to improve agricultural literacy — awareness, knowledge, and appreciation — among PreK-12 teachers and their students.

AITC programs seek to improve student achievement by applying authentic, agricultural-based content as the context to teach core curriculum concepts in science, social studies, language arts and nutrition. By encouraging teachers to embed agriculture into their classroom, AITC cultivates an understanding and appreciation of the food and fiber system that we all rely on every day. AITC is unique within the agricultural education community as the lead organization to serve the full spectrum of K-12 formal education.

Outstanding volunteers and the agricultural industry frequently partner with AITC to provide enhancement activities to support the lesson plans incorporated in the classroom. These activities may include hosting Ag Days or other events, having agriculturalists come into the classroom to volunteer during lessons, or taking a physical or virtual field trip to a farm, ranch or agriculture business within the area.



Where can I find agricultural literacy lesson plans and resources?

- **National Ag in the Classroom** at www.agclassroom.com
 - Check out the **Curriculum Matrix** under “Teacher Resources”. Allows you to search standards aligned lesson plans by grade level, content area, and keyword.
 - Teacher center includes Ag-Knowledge quizzes, AgroWorld E-zine, STEM curriculum resources, national events and opportunities.
 - Student Center includes virtual tours, kid’s zone, state ag facts, teen scene and WebQuests.
- **Nevada Ag in the Classroom** contact – Amber Smyer, asmeyer@agri.nv.gov
 - Request Nevada specific resources at <http://agri.nv.gov/aglit/>
- **American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture** at www.agfoundation.org
 - List of publications that reflect reliable information on agriculture
 - “Ag Links” list for news about agriculture
 - Addressing Misconceptions – a free online learning tool that will help you dive into important questions related to agriculture
 - [Purple Plow](#) – STEM learning biannual challenges and short, hands-on puzzlers.
 - Energy resources
 - My American Farm – educational game platform to engage pre-K through 5th grade learners.
 - Online store to purchase Ag Mags and other materials

Why is agricultural literacy important in Nevada?

- Yes, we can grow and process food, agriculture, and natural resource products here!
- We have a vibrant agriculture industry with career opportunities at all educational levels.
- Agriculture is applied STEM education.
- It's not just food! Agriculture is farming, food, fabric, fuels, forestry and flowers and more.
- Ultimately, we want Nevadan's to be **informed consumers**.



Source: American Farm Bureau Foundation

Visit the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix Today!
www.agclassroom.org



The screenshot shows the website interface for the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Teacher Center, Student Center, Get Involved, and Affiliates. Below this is a search bar and a 'Matrix Home' button. The main content area is titled 'National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix' and features a sidebar for filtering lesson plans by 'Grade Level' and 'Content Area'. The main content displays details for a lesson plan titled 'Freshest Fruits', including its grade level (K-2), estimated time (60 minutes), purpose, materials, and a list of activities.

2019 School Garden Conference Workshop

Group and break out activities came from the following lesson plans on the National Agriculture in the Classroom [Curriculum Matrix](#):

- [Source Search](#) - In this lesson students will learn that agriculture provides nearly all of the products we rely on in any given day by participating in a relay where they match an everyday item with its "source."
- [Plant Tops and Bottoms](#) - Students will identify where fruits and vegetables belong on a MyPlate diagram and describe the major parts of plants - roots, stems, leaves, flowers and fruits according to if they are produced on the top or bottom of a plant.
- [Peas in a Pod](#) - Students will explore the concept of inherited traits and understand the significance of Gregor Mendel's discoveries related to heredity.
 - [PomPom Punnett Square kit](#)
- [Get Popping](#) - Students will discover how popcorn is grown and explore the phenomenon of how popcorn pops.
 - [Popcorn on the Cob](#)
- [Corn an A-maizing Plant: Food, Fuel, and Plastic](#) - Students will examine the growth, composition, history, and uses of corn through a close reading activity, discussion of renewable and non-renewable resources, and hands-on exploration of bioplastics made from corn.
 - [Packing Peanuts kit](#)
- [360 Agriculture – Virtual Reality](#)