

# NC Ag in the Classroom Teacher Award

North Carolina Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program will honor a NC teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts across the various areas of study. Agriculture is an important part of everyone's life. Clothing, food, fuel, housing, medicine, and much more are rooted in agriculture. Agricultural issues can support the teaching of many academic disciplines. Recognizing this, we would like to honor educators across the state who are effectively integrating agriculture into the classroom curriculum. Enclosed are the award guidelines, nomination and application forms. Nominated teachers will be asked to submit award applications that describe their methods for incorporating agricultural concepts into their classrooms.

## **What is Ag in the Classroom?**

Ag in the Classroom is a non-profit educational foundation sponsored by North Carolina Farm Bureau, which was created to promote an awareness and recognition of the importance of the sources of our food and fiber. Agriculture and related agribusinesses are the number one industry in the United States and in North Carolina. The program, comprised of three parts – curricula, professional development workshops for teachers and county Farm Bureau support – is available to all North Carolina educators at no cost.

## **Who is eligible for this award?**

Certified teachers currently teaching any grade - Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade - and are integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula (i.e. reading, writing, math, science, etc.) are encouraged to apply.

## **How can nominations be submitted?**

Self-nominations as well as nominations from school faculty, community leaders including Farm Bureau members, parents or students are invited. Submit the Nomination Form and a letter of recommendation (2 page maximum length) that describes the educator's ability to promote agricultural literacy and his/her role in applying agricultural education in their current curriculum.

**Nominations must be postmarked by February 16, 2009 and mailed to:**

North Carolina Farm Bureau  
Ag in the Classroom  
PO Box 27766  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
Attention: Louise Lamm

## **What are the criteria for selection?**

Teachers must utilize 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, an understanding of agriculture's impact on personal lives, our national heritage, the environment, national security and the economy. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

# Selection Criteria

**A panel of judges will review the applications and evaluate them on the following criteria:**

## **20% ~ Creativity and Utilization of Agricultural Information**

The lesson/unit/project must be creative and interesting for students and help them become more knowledgeable about the food and fiber system. Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning. A lesson/unit/project description (two page limit, single sided) must be included, citing original source, if adapted. Optional related materials may be included, such as photos, student work sample or citing of additional resources. (20 points)

## **20% ~ Interdisciplinary Approaches**

The degree to which agricultural concepts have been included in a variety of subjects and disciplines. Value will be placed on the approach which teaches agriculture across the curriculum. Evidence shown that the project implements the Ag in the Classroom lesson plans and/or related ag literacy materials. (20 points)

## **20% ~ Advancement of Educational Standards**

The degree to which the nominee aligns agricultural learning activities with state, national, or other established education standards. The North Carolina Standard Course of Study must be addressed by the lesson/unit/project in one or more disciplines. Interdisciplinary programs are encouraged. (20 points)

## **20% ~ Student Impact**

Evidence of teacher's impact on student attitudes and overall learning. The lesson/unit/project should be adaptable for use by other teachers. (20 points)

## **10% ~ Strength of Nomination Letter**

A letter of nomination should convey a strong sense of the teacher's efforts to introduce agricultural information into the classroom. This should refer to actual situations and learning activities. Two or more letters of support should be included from an administrator, parent, and/or community member involved in the project. (10 points)

## **10% ~ Endorsement by and Administrator or Co-worker**

The degree to which a letter by a school administrator or co-worker substantiates the nominee's excellence in, and dedication to, the teaching role. Project motivation should show teacher appreciation for agriculture and its role in society. (10 points)

## **How will the selected teacher be recognized?**

The winning teacher will be notified by April 3, 2009 and will be

- (1) recognized at the NC Farm Bureau Annual Meeting to be held December 2009 at Greensboro, NC. Expenses paid.
- (2) invited to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, June 23-27, 2009, with up to \$1250 of expenses covered by the NC AITC program.
- (3) invited to share their ideas at a statewide workshop during the NC Ag in the Classroom Summer workshops.

**Nomination Form**  
**2009 North Carolina Ag in the Classroom Teacher Award**  
(To be submitted by person making the nomination)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of person making the nomination) (name of nominee)

for the 2009 North Carolina Ag in the Classroom Teacher Award.

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Subject and/or Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

County in which he/she teaches \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of county Farm Bureau president \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are not certain who your county president is, please contact your county Farm Bureau office.)

Attach a letter of nomination (up to 2 pages), describing the educator's ability to promote agricultural literacy and his/her role in applying agricultural education in the current curriculum he/she teaches.

*Nomination forms must be postmarked no later than **February 16, 2009** to:*

**North Carolina Farm Bureau**  
**Ag in the Classroom**  
**PO Box 27766**  
**Raleigh, NC 27611**  
**Attention: Louise Lamm**

**Application Form**  
**2009 North Carolina Ag in the Classroom Teacher Award**  
(To be submitted by the teacher being nominated)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Subject and/or Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

County in which you teach \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Local Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School System Public Information Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- I. Describe the programs/methods used to incorporate agricultural concepts into your curriculum. At least one lesson/unit/project (two page limit, single sided) must be included, citing original source, if adapted. Please attach any optional related materials on additional pages, such as photos, citing of additional resources, and/or evidence of Ag in the Classroom lesson plans and/or related ag literacy materials.
- II. What objectives from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (or any other relevant curriculum standards) do you address in your teaching about agriculture?
- III. On which agricultural concepts do you focus?
- IV. Describe the impact these programs/methods have on the student attitudes and overall learning.
- V. What sources do you utilize for information?
- VI. In 300 words or less, please describe your motivation/philosophy for integrating agriculture into your classroom curriculum. Use additional paper as needed.

**Applications must be postmarked no later than March 16, 2009 to:**

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Ag in the Classroom  
PO Box 27766  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
Attention: Louise Lamm