

**Arkansas Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher Award**

The Arkansas Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes an outstanding teacher in Arkansas who incorporates agricultural themes into non-agricultural curricula. If you know teachers who use agriculture in the classroom, please encourage them to apply for the award. Teachers can self-nominate, or be nominated by fellow teachers, principals, superintendents, or nominated by a county Farm Bureau leader.

There are many outstanding teachers who are using ag in the classroom, and your teacher may be the next state winner and possibly the next national winner! The winning teacher will be awarded a monetary prize, an expense-paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference June 24-27, 2024, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and an iPad Air tablet. The winning teacher will also be recognized at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Hot Springs in December.

Don’t miss out on the opportunity to recognize an outstanding teacher. The use of agriculture in teachers’ classrooms is also a celebration of the efforts of their respective county Farm Bureau.

**The deadline for the application is April 1, 2024.**

Thank you for helping spread the word about the award program. If you have any questions, please contact Donette Spann at (501) 228-1222 or donette.spann@arfb.com.

**Arkansas Ag in the Classroom
Outstanding Teacher Award**

Arkansas Farm Bureau’s Ag in the Classroom program will honor an Arkansas teacher who integrates the concepts of agriculture into non-agricultural curricula. Agriculture is the largest industry in Arkansas and an important part of everyday life. The concepts and issues of agriculture can support the teaching of many academic disciplines. This award was created to recognize and honor educators in Arkansas for their efforts and achievements in teaching students about the importance of agriculture.

**Eligibility**
Any certified teacher currently engaged in classroom instruction at the Pre-K through 12th grade level who is integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula is encouraged to apply. **Prior winners of this award are ineligible.**

**Criteria for Selection**Teachers must utilize agricultural information and/or materials within the classroom curriculum to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture while also mastering required educational standards. Learning activities may include, but are not limited to, understanding agriculture’s impact on people’s lives, the environment, the economy, our national heritage, and national security. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

**Award**The teacher selected will receive:
• A scholarship to attend the 2024 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 24-27, 2024. The scholarship covers full registration, lodging, travel, and meals.
• $1,000 award
• iPad Air tablet

**Application Process**Self-nominations, as well as nominations from school faculty, community leaders, or parents of students, are invited. Applications must be submitted by certified mail and postmarked no later than **April 1, 2024**, to:

**Donette Spann
Director, Ag in the Classroom
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
P.O. Box 31
Little Rock, AR 72203-0031**

**Teacher of the Year Application**

Name

Home Address Phone

City State Zip

School Name

School Address Phone

City State Zip

Email

Grade Level Subjects Taught

How long have you been teaching? Number of years at current school

**Education**

 Institution Year Degree/Certification

**Professional Experience**

 Position School/Organization Dates

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**Awards and Honors Related to Teaching**

**Agreement**

I certify 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 Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation to use submitted materials at future Ag in the Classroom functions or other appropriate public forums, to publicize the program in whatever manner, including but not limited to the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation website (arfb.com).

**Applicant’s signature Date**

***Essay***(2-4 pages total, 12-point font, double-spaced)

**Provide a written response to A and B prompts.**

A. Describe how you have incorporated agriculture into your classroom.
B. How did the activities/lessons/projects described above increase students’ understanding of both agriculture and the required content?

***Lesson Plan***
(limit to 4 pages)

**Submit one lesson plan that supports your essay and demonstrates your incorporation of agriculture into your classroom.**

***Optional Materials***You may choose to include:
A. Letter(s) of recommendation from an administrator, colleague, parent, or classroom volunteer.
B. Samples and/or pictures of student work.
C. News coverage or other recognition of work in the classroom.

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