

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

The Arkansas Farm Bureau's Ag-in-the-Classroom program will honor an Arkansas teacher that integrates the concepts of agriculture into non-agricultural curricula. Agriculture is an important part of everyone's life, and is the largest industry in Arkansas. The concepts and issues of agriculture can support the teaching of many academic disciplines. This award was created to recognize and honor an educator in Arkansas for efforts and achievements in teaching students the importance of agriculture. The winning teacher will be awarded an expense paid trip to the National Ag-in-the-Classroom Conference and a \$500.00 cash prize.

**Note: Funds may only be used for allowable travel expenses incurred by recipient. They are not to be used to cover the costs of recipients' guests to the conference.**

### *Who is eligible?*

Any certified teacher currently engaged in classroom instruction at the Pre-K through 12 levels who is integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula is encouraged to apply. **Prior winners of this award are ineligible for future awards under this program.**

### *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, understanding agriculture's impact on personal lives, the environment, the economy, our national heritage, and national security. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

### *How are Nominations Evaluated?*

All nominations will be evaluated by a panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education, and Agriculture in the Classroom.

**Entries will be judged in the following categories:**

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Weight</b>
<b>A. Creativity and Utilization of Agricultural Information</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.	25 points

- B. **Interdisciplinary Approach** -- 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. 25 points
- C. **Advancement of Educational Standards** -- The degree to which the nominee aligns agricultural learning activities with state and/or national or other established education standards. 25 points
- D. **Student Impact** -- Evidence of nominee's impact on student attitudes and overall learning. 25 points

Self-nominations as well as nominations from school faculty, community leaders, or parents are invited. Applications must be submitted by certified mail postmarked no later than **March 18, 2016** to the address listed below:

**Andy Guffey**  
**Assistant Director, Education & AITC**  
**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation**  
**P. O. Box 31**  
**Little Rock, AR 72203-0031**

## *Nomination Guidelines*

1. Complete the nomination outline (copy attached).
2. Please provide a summary of your teaching program and goals. (Maximum 2 pages)
3. Provide a narrative response to the following three items (A, B, & C) listed below. **When writing the narrative, please consider the evaluation criteria.** (Maximum 4 pages)

A. Describe the unique and innovative approaches to advancing agricultural literacy in the classroom.

B. Identify the teaching methods employed (i.e. experiential, case study, etc.). Specify agricultural concepts taught and which academic areas of study were utilized. (Math, Social Studies, ELA, STEM, Economics, Environment, Creative Arts) What was the depth and duration of the activity? Explain how these learning experiences helped advance state and/or national education standards.

C. Explain how these activities helped students better understand the impact American agriculture has had on personal lives, our national heritage, the environment, the national security, and the economy.

4. We invite you to share photos or other documentation of your instruction and activities on agricultural literacy. (Maximum 3 pages)

5. The following supporting documentation must be included:

**Endorsement by an Administrator** -- The degree to which a letter (signed and dated) by a school administrator substantiates the nominee's excellence in and dedication to the teaching role.

**Endorsement by a Co-worker** -- The degree to which a letter (signed and dated) by a co-worker substantiates the nominee's excellence in and dedication to the teaching.

## Nomination Outline

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Subjects Taught \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years teaching experience \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years at current school \_\_\_\_\_

### Education

INSTITUTION	YEAR	DEGREE/CERTIFICATION
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### Professional Experience

POSITION	SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION	DATES
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## **Awards and Honors Related to Teaching**

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**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 Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation to use these submitted materials at future Ag-in-the-Classroom functions or other appropriate public forums, to publicize in whatever manner, including but not limited to the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation website.**

**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checklist:**

Make sure you have attached all of your documents with your application.

\_\_\_\_\_ Application Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Program Summary

\_\_\_\_\_ Program Narrative

\_\_\_\_\_ Photos and other documentation

\_\_\_\_\_ Letters of support