



DATE: January 10, 2018

TO: County Presidents

FROM: Matt Jackson, Senior Education Coordinator

RE: Arkansas Ag in the Classroom Teacher Award

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

There are many outstanding teachers that are using Ag in the Classroom, and your teacher may be the next state winning teacher in Arkansas and possibly the next national award winner from Arkansas. The winning teacher will be awarded a monetary prize, an expense paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference and recognized at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Annual Convention. Don't miss out on the opportunity to recognize an outstanding teacher in your county, because their recognition for using Ag in the Classroom is also a celebration of the efforts of your county Farm Bureau.

The award program guidelines and a nomination form may be downloaded from the Arkansas Farm Bureau website at www.arfb.com on the Education page. Deadline for application is March 16, 2018.

Thank you for helping spread the word about the award program. If you have any other questions, you may contact Matt Jackson by email at matt.jackson@arfb.com or by phone at 501-228-1237.

MJ/lc

Cc: County Ag in the Classroom Chairmen
County Women's Committee Chairmen
County Young Farmers and Ranchers Chairmen

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.

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 while also mastering required educational standards. 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.

Award:

The teacher selected will receive a \$1000 stipend as well as a scholarship to attend the 2018 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference to be held in Portland, Maine June 25-29. The scholarship will cover the teacher's full registration, lodging, travel, and meals.

Application Process:

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 16, 2018** to the address listed below:

**Matt Jackson
Senior Education Coordinator
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
P. O. Box 31
Little Rock, AR 72203-0031**

Application

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

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:** _____

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

Provide a written response to prompts A and B.

- 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 required content.

Lesson Plan (please limit to 4 pages)

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

Optional Materials

You may choose to include:

- A. A letter of recommendation from an administrator, colleague, parent or classroom volunteer
- B. Samples and/or pictures of student work
- C. News coverage or other recognition