

Agriculture in the Classroom: Teacher Supplement Grant Program

The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation, in partnership with the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, offers grants up to \$200 to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction or after school programs with an academic focus. Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher Supplement Grants are designed to initiate new projects or expand existing projects that promote agriculture literacy. Grants can be used to fund innovative lessons, activities, classroom resources, guest speakers, outreach programs, field trips, and other projects.

Eligibility Guidelines

- Preschool through 12th grade teachers, school librarians, after school programs with an academic focus, and Homeschool Assistance Programs (HSAP).
 - Applying preschool teachers should be from nonprofit organizations if not affiliated with a school district.
- Projects must teach agriculture through Language Arts, Math, Science, or Social Studies.
- Project must take place between January 13 and June 7, 2026. Please note: Successful applicants will be notified in early January. With this timing you may want to consider waiting to start if your project depends on IALF funding.
- A teacher may not apply for more than one grant per year.
- Multiple teachers from the same school may apply. Separate applications must be submitted by each teacher, even if they are working together toward the same project. Please indicate on the application if you are collaborating with other teachers on a similar project.
- Teachers with overdue follow-up reports from a previous grant award are not eligible to receive funding.
- Grant money cannot be used for fund raising efforts, political issues, or campaigns.

Grant Timeline

- Applications are due November 30, 2025, 11:59 p.m.
- Successful applicants will be notified by January 6, 2026.
- Funding will be distributed by January 16, 2026.
- Final wrap-up reports and at least one photo of the project must be submitted by June 7, 2026.

Wrap-Up Report Content

As part of this grant if awarded, by accepting the grant, awardees are required and agree to submit a wrap-up report at the conclusion of their granted project. Following are some of the questions you will be asked. Please plan to capture this information as you progress through your project.

- How many minutes did your students spend learning about agriculture?
- How many students participated in this program?
- Grades of participating students.
- Provide a brief summary of the project with specific examples from your class (300 words).
- Did you make any adjustments to the project's scope? If so, why?
- What were the outcomes of the learning experience? (qualitative and/or quantitative, where possible)
- Upload at least one photo.

Purchase Eligibility

Items eligible for purchase with this grant include, but are not limited to:

- Iowa Ag Today publications from the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/iowaAgricultureLiteracyFounda/AgToday.html>
- Books from our recommended list to add to your library: <http://www.iowaagliteracy.org/resources/lending-library/lending-library.aspx>
- Kits from the AgClassroomStore: <https://agclassroomstore.com/>
- Books, kits, other resources from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture store: <https://store.agfoundation.org/>

For additional information about agriculture literacy resources available to Iowa educators, visit www.iowaagliteracy.org.

Wait!

Before you start your application read the following:

- You can save and come back to finish the application as often as necessary prior to the submission deadline.
- After you submit your application, you will be able to log-in to print or revise until the submission deadline.
- Each teacher applying for a grant must complete a separate application, even if the project is the same. Please indicate on the application if you are collaborating with other teachers on a similar project.
- The applying teacher is responsible for preparation and completion of the application.
- Grant submission does not guarantee funding.
- Full amount of applicant funding request is not guaranteed. Partial funds may be awarded.
- As a grant applicant, you will be added to our e-newsletter to learn more about other agriculture literacy resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Anderson at 515-225-5462 or by email at manderson@iowaagliteracy.org.

Exemplary Projects Awarded in Previous Years

Horticulture Hanging Baskets, MFL MarMac High School

Horticulture students will grow and market hanging baskets in the greenhouse. Students will oversee choosing plants to grow and the process from start to finish. Agriculture business students will oversee record keeping and product promotion.

Aplington-Parkersburg Ag Sciences Program Lesson Supplementation, Aplington-Parkersburg High School

The A-P Ag Sciences Dept. is seeking this grant to acquire tools and materials that will help students achieve learning outcomes. These tools will provide hands-on learning in Animal Science, Horticulture, and Ag Power & Tech classes offered in the program.

Raising Feedlot Calves, Lucia Wallace Elementary

After attending a Farm to Fork class in Algona, I created a lesson that correlated with our Life Cycle common core unit in science, Raising Feedlot Calves. I borrowed books and a kit from the IALF Lending Library and would like to purchase books/kits to go along with the unit.

Comprehension of Agricultural-Related Topics, Southeast Warren Jr.-Sr. High School

I will be using this grant money to build background knowledge in the areas of science and English language arts to promote better understanding of science concepts as they relate to agriculture.

Lifecycles and Chick Development, Clarke Community Elementary School

Students will experience a hands-on and interactive unit on lifecycles of animals, including chickens. In the classroom, chicks will be hatched, and students will care for them. Students will also integrate writing, math, broadcasting, and publishing skills to include the whole school.

Exciting AGventures with Popcorn, Newell-Fonda CSD

Students will learn and read about the history of popcorn, how farmers grow it, and what makes a kernel pop. After conducting experiments, students will graph their results such as the amount of time it takes to pop and the volume/measurement of the kernels.

Soil, Sun, Water and Corn – Can we live without? Clear Creek Elementary

This natural resources project will be taught through the lens of agriculture. Soil, sun, water, and corn as resources will be our focus. Our 4th Graders will have a deeper understanding of these energy sources, and their importance in their lives.

Honey Bees: A Pollination Simulation Lesson, Irwin Elementary

Third graders will participate in the Iowa Ag Literacy lesson Honey Bees: A Pollination Simulation. Through this hands-on lesson, students will learn about the parts of a honey bee, engage in a pollination simulation activity, and make models of the life cycle of a honey bee with beeswax.

Agricultural books for our elementary school library, Crestview School of Inquiry

Updating our collection of books on the topic of agriculture will enlighten our learners' understanding of its importance through the enjoyment of engaging quality literature.

Chicken and Duck Life Cycle, Eagle Grove Elementary

Students will understand the chicken life cycle and the responsibilities that come with raising animals and the care that is needed.

Agricultural Guided Reading Informational Texts, Woodbury Central Elementary

Project will provide first graders with quality agricultural texts to begin the development of the students' knowledge and understanding of the importance of agriculture.

Where in the World is Waldo's Food Grown? CAL Community School

During our 5th Grade Social Studies classes, we will grow plants in our classroom and also study foods from around the world and investigate where and under what conditions they are grown. We will also sample international foods.

School Garden, Carpenter Elementary

I want to continue to grow our school garden that I started last year with my grade level team of teachers. I also want to enhance my plant growth, soil, and pollination instruction and incorporate more literacy into my science instruction.

After School Gardening Enrichment Club, Briggs Elementary School

This project will provide a great way for students to learn about bee pollination, how to organize a vegetable garden, gain hands-on experience growing their own food, and the chance to taste the fruits and vegetables they have grown by their own hands.

How Does Your Garden Grow, Newell-Fonda Elementary

Where does the food we find in our grocery stores come from? How are the crops and livestock raised in Iowa used to create products? In our unit, "How Does Your Garden Grow", we will learn what plants need to grow and how plants become the food we eat.

Maintaining and Growing Our Community Garden, Seeds of Faith Early Learning Center

Our preschool has been planting, growing, and harvesting vegetables in our backyard garden for several years. We will continue to teach these skills and introduce new ideas related to farming and pollination.

Classroom Farm Unit, Eldora-New Providence Elementary

Kindergarteners study farming, both animals and crops in the Spring. These hands-on activities will be valuable learning opportunities.

Solar and Wind Comparison, Dunkerton Elementary and Middle School

Students will learn about solar and wind energy options and compare the electrical output at our school.

Journey 2050: Turf Grass Runoff Mitigation, Bettendorf High School

Our ground crew stopped mowing a section next to our practice football field. Our students will be maintaining the un-mowed area to minimize the runoff from fertilizer application to the practice football field.

Aeroponic in Horticulture, Shenandoah Community Schools

We would like to build an aeroponic system in our horticulture classes to compare the use of water to a traditional growing system.

Mason Bee Pollinator House Project, Northeast Hamilton Elementary

Students will build a structure that will provide a habitat for Mason bees and other pollinators. Each student will develop a plan for the best location to place their own "Bee House" and track activity. Students will also be provided seedlings of flowering shrubs and trees to plant.

My Love for Ag Increases Through Literacy, Turkey Valley Elementary and Jr./Sr. High

This is a reading-based project that will coincide with multiple curricular units happening throughout our school. The goal is to have great literature available to students and staff to accent their personal growth in understanding the many parts of agriculture.

Wind Power in Iowa, Carroll Middle School

In Geography class, we discuss renewable and non renewable resources. Wind power is a renewable resource and since we live in Iowa, there is a personal connection. I would like to purchase the Wind Power kits for that purpose.

Farming/Engineering, Community Lutheran School

This project will include students ages 5-13 and begin with farm animals. After learning the basics, students can use their skills to build buildings, engineer structures, and learn design methods used in farming.

Dreaming of Dairy, Newell-Fonda Schools

Students will learn about different types of cows raised in Iowa. They will learn specifically what dairy cows provide for us and the process milk takes from farm to table.

Saving and Expanding Our School Orchard, Scattergood Friends School

Our Agriculture Independent Studies class will learn about tree propagation through grafting scion wood from successful trees onto established root stock trees as well as root stocks that will be transplanted after grafting. They would also like to plant several purchased trees to compare results.