

# READ across IOWA



**From Pollinators to  
Product**

The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation, in partnership with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Iowa 4-H Youth Development, is excited to provide you with a 2026 Read Across Iowa kit! Read Across Iowa is a signature IALF education program that helps Iowa classrooms connect reading to real-world agriculture. The kit includes agriculture-themed books and classroom-ready lessons that support learning in literacy, science, social studies, and math.

Celebrated statewide each March, Read Across Iowa uses the power of reading to spark student curiosity about agriculture. Because agriculture is central to Iowa's economy, it offers a powerful lens for learning across subjects. Through stories and activities, students explore where food comes from, how it's produced, and why agriculture matters to Iowa's communities. Optional virtual events, including a soy farmer chat, a pollinator webinar, and read-alouds, extend learning beyond the classroom. To support instruction, lesson plans are provided to complement each book and connect agriculture to the environment and society.

- ***My Family's Soybean Farm* by Katie Olthoff**

- Soybean Germination and Growth (<https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Soybean-Germination-and-Growth>)
- From Soybeans to Car Parts (<https://iowamatrix.agclassroom.org/matrix/lessons/296/>)

- ***Flower Talk* by Sara Levine**

- Bees-Life Cycle & Pollination (<https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Bees-Life-Cycle-and-Pollination>)
- Plant Parts Matching (<https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Plant-Parts-Matching>)

- ***From Seed to Plant* by Gail Gibbons**

- Plant Tops and Bottoms (<https://iowamatrix.agclassroom.org/matrix/lessons/78/>)
- Parts of a Seed (<https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Parts-of-a-Seed>)

- ***The Beeman* by Laurie Krebs**

- The Amazing Honeybee (<https://iowamatrix.agclassroom.org/matrix/lessons/686/>)
- Growing Almonds: Fact or Opinion (<https://iowamatrix.agclassroom.org/matrix/lessons/420/>)

- ***From Wax to Crayon* by Inez Snyder**

- Agriculture Bingo (<https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Agriculture-BINGO>)
- By-Product Riddle (<https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/ByProduct-Riddle>)

- ***Bailey the Bee* Iowa State University Extension & Outreach/Integrated Pest Management**

- Fabulous Flowers (<https://iowamatrix.agclassroom.org/matrix/lessons/93/>)
- Apple Production (<https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Apple-Production>)



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resources

Read Across Iowa is organized as a collaborative effort. Books and materials were funded by the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa State University, the Iowa Space Grant Consortium, and other valued partners of the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation.



Other resources to celebrate Read Across Iowa can be found at: [www.iowaagliteracy.org/Tools-Resources/Other/Read-Across-Iowa](http://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Tools-Resources/Other/Read-Across-Iowa)