

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 \$250 to help educators integrate agriculture into regular classroom instruction or after-school programs with an academic focus.

Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher Supplement Grants support new or expand existing projects that promote agriculture literacy through 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 Iowa Academic Standards alignment, and Homeschool Assistance Programs (HSAP). Preschool teachers who are not affiliated with a school district must work for a nonprofit organization.
- Agri-science teachers may apply if their proposed project extends beyond their agri-science classrooms to other classes within their school or district.
- Educators with 1-3 years of teaching experience are encouraged to apply. Up to 10% of available grant funds will be reserved for eligible applicants in this group.
- Projects must integrate agriculture into Language Arts, Math, Science, or Social Studies.
- Project must take place between January 11 and June 6, 2027.
- Applicants must submit a letter of support from a school administrator. Submissions will not be considered without a letter of support.
- A teacher may not apply for more than one grant per year. Multiple teachers from the same school may apply, including those collaborating on a project. Each must submit a separate application, identifying collaborating teachers and request funding for their own expenses without duplicating another applicant's request.
- Teachers with overdue follow-up reports from previous grants are ineligible for funding.
- Grant funds cannot be used for fundraising efforts, political issues, or campaigns.

Grant Timeline

Date	Milestone
November 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.	Application deadline
By January 6, 2027	Grant recipients notified
By January 15, 2027	Grant funds distributed
January 11 – June 6, 2027	Project implementation
June 14, 2027	Wrap-up report and photo due

Projects dependent on grant funding should be scheduled to begin after funds are received.

Wrap-Up Report Requirements

Grant recipients must submit a wrap-up report upon completion of their funded project. Please plan to track the following information throughout your project.

- Number of students who participated and their grade levels.
- Time students spent learning about agriculture (collectively).
- A brief project summary with specific classroom examples (300 words).
- Any adjustments to the original project scope and the reasons for those changes.
- Learning outcomes, including qualitative and/or quantitative results when possible.
- At least one photo documenting the project.

Eligible Purchases and Resources

Grant funds may be used to purchase educational materials and resources that support the proposed project. Examples include:

- *Iowa Ag Today* and other IALF resources
- Books and classroom resources from IALF's recommended lists: <http://www.iowaagliteracy.org/resources/lending-library/lending-library.aspx>
- AgClassroomStore kits and materials: <https://agclassroomstore.com/>
- American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture resources: <https://store.agfoundation.org/>

Visit www.IowaAgLiteracy.org for additional agriculture literacy resources.

Before You Apply

- You may save your application and return to complete it as often as needed before deadline.
- After submitting, you may log back in to print or revise your application until the submission deadline.
- The applying teacher is responsible for preparing and completing the application. Please indicate on the application if you are collaborating with other teachers on a similar project and explain how the funds will be used. Funding requests should reflect each applicant's individual needs and should not duplicate expenses requested by another applicant.
- Submitting an application does not guarantee funding. Partial awards may be made.
- Grant applicants will be added to IALF's e-newsletter to receive information about agriculture literacy resources and opportunities.

Questions? Contact Melissa Anderson at manderson@iowaagliteracy.org.

Examples of Previously Funded Projects

Winter's Bounty: Growing Produce in the Cold, Tri-Center Community Schools

Middle and high school students will compare indoor hydroponics, winter sowing, and an unheated greenhouse to determine which methods could successfully produce lettuce during the winter. Students will share their findings with the Tri-Center school board.

From the Farm to Me, Lasalle Catholic School, Holy Cross

Pre-K through first grade students will visit pig, beef, and dairy farms to learn about livestock growth, feeding, handling, and modern farming technology before making pizzas with animal-based ingredients and completing a KWL activity to reflect their learning.

Iowa Dairy Story Field Trip and Agriculture Unit: Carrie Lee Elementary, Decorah CSD

Third grade students will learn about dairy cow breeds, milk production, careers, and evolving technology through hands-on activities.

Bee Bot Agriculture, Monona Elementary

Using Bee-Bots and coding, students will simulate the journey of milk and crops from farm to store and learn the importance of farmers and how food reaches their table.

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.

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.