Thank you for requesting a 2023 kit to implement a Read Across Iowa celebration with your students! This kit includes books, activities, tips, and other resources to help you motivate kids to read. Read Across Iowa will be celebrated throughout the month of March to bring the joys of reading to students of all ages and make all children feel valued and welcomed.

Agriculture is essential to the economy of Iowa. Agriculture is a great way to contextualize learning. Everybody eats and learning about our food system can be fun too! To help your students better understand agriculture through these books, we would like to recommend these resources that support each of the books.

- **My Family’s Corn Farm by Katie Olthoff**
  - High-Tech Farming - https://iowamatrix.agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/656/

- **My Family’s Farm book series by Katie Olthoff**
  - Lessons and Virtual Books- https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Tools-Resources/Publications/My-Familys-Farm

- **How’d That Get Into My Lunchbox, by Chris Butterworth**
  - Corn: Seed to Cereal- https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Corn-Seed-to-Cereal

- **The Good Garden: How One Family Went From Hunger to Having Enough, by Katie Smith Milway**
  - People and Plants Need Nutrients- https://iowamatrix.agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/140/
  - Caring for the Land- https://iowamatrix.agclassroom.org/matrix/lesson/136/

- **Riparia’s River, by Michael J. Caduto**
  - Conservation Nation- https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Conservation-Nation
  - Plant a Prairie: Milkweed Seed Bombs- https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Plant-a-Prairie-Milkweed-Seed-Bombs

- **Our School Garden, by Rick Swann**
  - School Garden Tool Sort - https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/School-Garden-Tool-Sort
  - Farmers and Gardeners - https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Farmers-and-Gardeners

Read Across Iowa is organized as a collaborative effort. Some books and materials were funded by the Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP CEP), generous donations from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and other 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
Read alouds offer a chance to model good reading and thinking strategies and to expose youth to a rich variety of books. Reading should be interactive, and encourage supportive and engaging discussions. Children are able to extend their world-view and develop important critical thinking skills with repeated reading opportunities.

### Before reading

- Preview the book before you read it with the group so you can anticipate questions or reactions.
- Practice reading the book through so you can decide where to pause for emphasis and where to elicit questions, predictions, or reactions.
- Note words that children may not know, or places where you might want to ask questions.

### During reading

- Introduce the book to the group. Point out the cover illustration, title, and author. Invite children to predict what the book is about, and talk about how the book might connect to their own experience or to other books they have heard or read.
- Be expressive! Change your voice for different characters, pause and emphasize important parts. Allow time for children to study the pictures, make comments, and ask questions throughout.
- Ask children to make predictions about what will happen next.
- Point out words that children may not know and tell them the definition.
- Have fun!

### After reading

- Talk about how the story might relate to you and/or the children.
- Ask if the book made them curious, or ask if children have questions.
- End with how much fun it is to read, and how much can be learned from books.

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