

## Ag in the Classroom

In 1986, the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation initiated activities to establish an active Ag in the Classroom (AITC) program in the state. The mission of the Louisiana's AITC program is to increase understanding of agriculture and instill an appreciation for our renewable food, fiber and fuel systems through education.

In 1998, the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation established the Louisiana Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. as a 501(c) (3) charitable organization. The foundation's purpose is to support the various educational initiatives of the AITC program and to provide a secure funding source for the program.

A state committee of volunteers meets on a regular basis to plan and implement various activities. Committee members are nominated by parish Farm Bureaus and appointed by the State Board. They serve two year terms. The current State Chair is Maryledden Danos of Lafourche parish.

Lynda Danos, a 10-year veteran public school science teacher, is the Louisiana AITC State Coordinator. For more information, visit [www.aitcla.org](http://www.aitcla.org) or contact Lynda Danos by e-mail or phone at 225-922-6503.

## AITC Programs & Activities

### **Educator Workshops**

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program hosts a series of teacher workshops across the state to provide educators with material needed to integrate agriculture into their existing curriculum.

Lesson plans correlated to the Louisiana Benchmarks, hands-on ag-tivities, new resources and ideas are all provided at the comprehensive seminars.

Workshops are traditionally held during the months of September and October.

Schools and/or school districts may request a workshop customized to meets their needs by contacting the Louisiana AITC State Coordinator Lynda Danos by e-mail or phone at 225-922-6503.

Learn more about AITC Educator Workshops by visiting [www.aitcla.org/workshops](http://www.aitcla.org/workshops).

### **Excellence of Agriculture Education Award (Teacher of the Year)**

Since 2000, AITC has recognized an outstanding teacher for their efforts and achievements with integrating agriculture across the curriculum. Winners are selected through an application process. The state winner receives an expenses-paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference, a plaque and \$500.

Learn more about AITC Teacher of the Year by visiting [www.aitcla.org/teacher-resources/teacher-of-the-year](http://www.aitcla.org/teacher-resources/teacher-of-the-year).

### **Sow, Grow & Know**

*Sow, Grow & Know* is the bi-annual newsletter published for educators by Louisiana Ag in the Classroom. The newsletter keeps educators around the state up to date on the projects, opportunities and upcoming activities of AITC.

Contact the Louisiana AITC State Coordinator Lynda Danos by e-mail or phone at 225-922-6503 to be added to the mailing list.

### **Educational Resources**

Ag in the Classroom offers a variety of lessons, information and materials.

See a complete list of Louisiana AITC Teacher Resources by visiting [www.aitcla.org/teacher-resources](http://www.aitcla.org/teacher-resources).

For additional information on a national level visit the National AITC website at [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org) or the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture website at [www.agfoundation.org](http://www.agfoundation.org).

### **Curriculum Development**

Louisiana AITC is always on the lookout for new lesson plans. If you have a great lesson that incorporates agriculture or would like to participate in our curriculum development project, please contact the Louisiana AITC State Coordinator Lynda Danos by e-mail or phone at 225-922-6503.

Stipends are available for all lessons that are accepted into the program.

### **Ag Tag**

Support the AITC program by purchasing an AG TAG for your vehicle. It's a bold way to show your support for Louisiana farmers and ranchers.

To purchase your AG TAG, call the Department of Motor Vehicles' Prestige Plate Division at 225-922-6364 when renewing or purchasing a license plate.

The AG TAG cost \$22.50 in addition to regular license tag fees. Each plate sold brings \$19 to the Ag in the Classroom Foundation, Inc.

### **Ag in the Classroom State Committee**

The Louisiana Farm Bureau is the lead organization for AITC in the state. A state committee of volunteers meets on a regular basis to plan and implement various activities. Committee members are nominated by parish Farm Bureaus and appointed by the State Board. They serve two year terms. The current State Chair is Maryledden Danos of Lafourche parish.

### **Louisiana Agriculture Literacy Day**

On Louisiana Ag Literacy Day volunteers share the story of agriculture by visiting elementary school classrooms across the state and reading a specially selected, agriculture-themed book. Ag Literacy is celebrated every spring.

This year's celebration was held on April 20.