



Florida Agriculture
in the Classroom, Inc.
AGRICULTURE KEEPS
FLORIDA GREEN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

34 FLORIDA TEACHERS RECEIVE GRANTS FROM FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

GAINESVILLE – Students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade learned about growing fruits and vegetables using different growing systems and other agriculture-related lessons by participating in 34 Teacher Grant projects funded by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.

“Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is excited to see so many teachers use agriculture as a way to teach core subject areas,” said Jennifer W. Sills, chairwoman and Dairy Council of Florida representative of the Florida Agriculture in the Classroom. “We enjoy funding projects like these that give students hands-on connections to agriculture.”

The non-profit organization agreed to fund 34 projects for more than \$34,000 that are being carried out this school year. It’s estimated these project will reach about 7,500 students.

The 2011-12 Teacher Grant projects selected are as follows:

1. **“Hoggetown Garden”** – Students at Hoggetown Middle School in Gainesville in Alachua County are growing vegetables in a container garden with acrylic sides that will allow them to view the roots of plants as they develop.
2. **“Discovering Florida: Our Food, Our Land, Our People”** – Students at Archer Community School in Alachua County are growing and preparing fruits and vegetables pioneer Floridians ate and observing a cattle drive.
3. **“The Gardens at Springfield”** – Students at Springfield Elementary in Panama City in Bay County are growing a vegetable and ornamental plant garden and participating in FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* lessons.
4. **“Merriam Cherry Street Elementary Gardens”** – Kindergarteners at Merriam Cherry Street Elementary in Panama City in Bay County are growing vegetables and strawberries by participating in a raised bed garden and visiting a strawberry farm.
5. **“Community Garden Project”** – Students at Lighthouse Christian Academy of Merritt Island in Brevard County are planting a fruit and vegetable garden and distributing the produce to needy families in their community.
6. **“VEGGIES: Vegetables Eating Garden Grown Involving Endeavor Students”** – Kindergarteners and second graders at Endeavor Elementary in Cocoa in Brevard County

- are planting a vegetable garden, providing the produce to local churches for needy families and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons. (\$1,659)
7. **“Heads Together”** – Fifth graders at Riviera Elementary in Palm Bay in Brevard County are raising vegetables in raised bed gardens and participating in FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* lessons.
 8. **“Feed Me and Watch Me Grow”** – Fourth graders at Roy Allen Elementary in Melbourne in Brevard County are learning the life sciences of reproduction, pollination, fertilization, seeing dispersal and germination by planting a hydroponics schoolyard garden and participating in FAITC lessons.
 9. **“Gardening Vegetables and Fruits to Promote Health and Education”** – Special needs students at Wingate Oaks Center in Fort Lauderdale in Broward County are learning about where their food comes from by planting a schoolyard garden with the assistance of a local farmer.
 10. **“A New Hallandale Harvest”** – Students at Hallandale Elementary in Broward County are developing raised bed gardens and participating in FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* lessons.
 11. **“Agriculture Book Club”** – Students at McRae Elementary in Keystone Heights in Clay County are reading agriculture-related children’s books and stories and participating in discussions about them.
 12. **“JFK Sustain Garden”** – Seventh and eighth graders at John F. Kennedy Middle School in North Miami Beach in Dade County are learning about alternative growing methods by planting raised bed and hydroponics gardens and participating in FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* lessons.
 13. **“Water, Water Everywhere - But How Do I get it to My Vegetables?”** – Students at John E. Ford K-8 School in Jacksonville in Duval County are learning about alternative ways to irrigate their school planter boxes by using rain barrels and participating in FAITC’s lessons.
 14. **“From Egg to Egg: The Whole Process”** – Middle school students at West Glades School in Glades County are learning about the chicken’s life cycle by incubating eggs and participating in FAITC’s lessons.
 15. **“Grow-Learn-Teach”** – Fifth grades and special needs students at J.S. Robinson Elementary in Plant City in Hillsborough County are planting vegetable and butterfly gardens and participating in FAITC lessons.
 16. **“Grow and Show! Botany in a Florida Schoolyard”** – Students at Muller Elementary in Tampa in Hillsborough County are planting a schoolyard garden and participating in FAITC lessons.
 17. **“Healthy Minds Create Healthy Hearts”** – Third graders at Summerfield Crossings Elementary in Riverview in Hillsborough County are growing fruits and vegetables in a portable greenhouse and participating in FAITC lessons.
 18. **“From Ground to Table, We are All Able”** – Students at Treasure Coast Elementary in Indian River County are learning about the need to grow a lot of food in small spaces by growing vegetables in garden boxes and participating in FAITC lessons.
 19. **“From Veggies and Fruit to Trees and Shrubs”** – Students at Clermont Elementary in Lake County are learning about alternative growing and irrigation methods by observing a hydroponics growing system on school grounds, using rain barrels to collect water and participating in FAITC lessons.
 20. **“Bloom Where You Are Planted”** – Special needs students at Fruitland Park Elementary in Fruitland Park in Lake County are planting a perennial school garden and participating in FAITC lessons.

21. **“Replenishing the Earth”** – First graders at Tavares Elementary in Lake County are replenishing nutrients in the soil in an ornamental garden and participating in FAITC lessons.
22. **“Tice, Tice, How Does Your Garden Grow?”** – Fifth graders at Tice Elementary in Fort Myers in Lee County are learning about agricultural concepts using FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* school garden resource, and using what they learn to develop a school garden to be used as a community garden for their parents and the community to maintain.
23. **“Hanging Gardens of Everglades”** – Kindergarteners at Everglades Elementary in Okeechobee in Okeechobee County are learning about the importance of agriculture and how to grow vegetables by developing a raised bed garden and a hanging garden using shoe caddies. FAITC lessons will be included in the school garden activities.
24. **“The Ag Avengers”** – Fifth graders at Osceola Middle School in Okeechobee in Okeechobee County are learning about Florida agriculture and careers in agriculture in their after school club called “Ag Avengers” where they are planting a school garden and participating in FAITC lessons.
25. **“The Food Energy Economy”** – Sixth graders at Lake Nona Middle School in Orange County are learning about energy transfer in plants by growing plants in controlled conditions and participating in FAITC lessons about photosynthesis and pollination.
26. **“Koa’s Growing Kinder-Garden”** – Students at Koa Elementary in Kissimmee in Osceola County are learning how to grow food by developing a vegetable garden and participating FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* lessons.
27. **“Curbside Waste to Curb Appeal”** – Students at Riviera Beach Maritime Academy in Riviera Beach in Palm Beach County are learning about the Florida horticulture industry and the careers in that industry by planting a school garden and participating in FAITC lessons.
28. **“Garden Gators”** – Students at Elbridge Gale Elementary are learning science lessons by participating in an after school club that has its own school garden and participating in FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* lessons.
29. **“The Fruit and Vegetables of our Labor”** – Pre-kindergarteners at St. Marks Episcopal School in Palm Beach Gardens in Palm Beach County are developing healthy eating habits by planting a fruit and vegetable raised bed garden and participating in younger elementary FAITC lessons about nutrition.
30. **“Micken’s Pickens”** – Special needs students at Moore Mickens Education Center in Dade City in Pasco County are learning about the Florida agriculture industry and careers in agriculture by expanding a school vegetable and horticulture garden and participating in FAITC lessons.
31. **“Outdoor Learning Environment to Celebrate Nature’s Diversity”** – Students at Davenport School of the Arts in Polk County are learning about pollination by planting and observing a flower garden and participating in related FAITC lessons.
32. **“Discovery’s Blueberry Patch”** – Fifth graders at Lakeland Christian School in Polk County are developing a schoolyard blueberry garden and participating in FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* lessons.
33. **“Sustainable Kibbutz Garden”** – Students at Goldie Feldman Academy in Sarasota County are learning about Florida agriculture through a new garden club that is planting a school vegetable garden and participating in FAITC’s *Gardening for Grades* lessons.
34. **“Farm Friends”** – Kindergarteners at Suwannee Primary School are learning about where food comes from by growing vegetables in classroom containers and visiting a nearby dairy farm.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is funded by sales of the agriculture specialty license plate called the 'Ag Tag.' It's mission is to educate Florida teachers and students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade about the importance of Florida agriculture using curricula, materials, grant money and other programs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FAITC'S TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM,
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