



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM
AWARDS 45 TEACHER GRANTS**

GAINESVILLE – Florida students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade will learn science, math and engineering skills with the school gardens they design and plant this school year using more than \$41, 000 in grant money recently awarded by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.

The Gainesville-based, non-profit organization recently awarded 45 grants to schools around Florida for projects that will reach a total of nearly 15, 000 students. Florida Agriculture in the Classroom offers teacher grants and other educational programs using funds it receives from sales of the agriculture specialty license plate called the ‘Ag Tag.’

“School gardens are a great way to educate students about where their food, fiber, fuel and landscape materials come from,” said Ken Barton, chairman of Florida Agriculture in the Classroom and executive director of the Florida Peanut Producers Association.

“School gardens also help students develop an appreciation for how hard it is to grow food because they face the same weather and pest and disease issues Florida farmers face,” Barton added.

The school projects selected for funding are as follows:

1. **“Growing Gardens”** – Kindergarteners at Merriam Cherry Street Elementary in Panama City in Bay County will expand their raised bed gardens to learn how plants grow and where food comes from.
2. **“Raised Bed Gardens”** – Students at Bradford Middle School in Starke will build six raised bed gardens where they plant broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers cauliflower and lettuce and learn how to grow food.
3. **“What’s for Dinner?”** – Gifted students in third through sixth grade at Meadowlane Intermediate Elementary in West Melbourne in Brevard County will plant a school garden and learn about agriculture-related environmental concepts.
4. **“We’re Farming and We Grow It”** – Kindergarteners and third graders at Surfside Elementary in Satellite Beach in Brevard County will build three fruit and vegetable raised bed gardens and learn math and science lessons by cooking the produce grown in them.

5. **“Tropical Oasis”** – Students at Tropical Elementary in Merritt Island in Brevard County will build raised bed and butterfly gardens, and will participate in the Junior Master Gardener program to learn about how food is grown.
6. **“Fairway’s Fruit & Flower Garden”** – Students at Fairway Elementary in Miramar in Broward County will build container and hydroponics gardens to grow citrus and strawberries and learn about Florida agriculture, different ways to grow fruit and the nutritional value of what they grow.
7. **“Welcome Home Little Butterflies”** – Second graders at Sandpiper Elementary in Sunrise in Broward County will learn about growing plants and pollination in a school butterfly garden.
8. **“Hallandale Urban Gardening”** – Students at Gulfstream Middle School in Hallandale in Broward County will learn about growing fruits and vegetables and will provide food to the local food bank as part of this school garden project.
9. **“Project Primal”** – Students at West Broward High School will teach another nearby school how to grow food in a garden at that school modeled after the one at their school.
10. **“Developing Healthy Teams and Healthy Eaters”** – Students with emotional and behavioral disabilities at Lakeside Elementary in Orange Park in Clay County will work together to plant a school garden and learn about healthy eating.
11. **“Agriculture in the City”** – Students at Lakeside Elementary in Orange Park in Clay County will learn how to grow vegetables in an urban setting by using containers.
12. **“Moving Beyond Science to Civic Responsibility”** – Students at John E. Ford K-8 Center in Jacksonville in Duval County will expand their existing vegetable garden from a science and nutrition project to one that will provide produce to the community.
13. **“Pizza & Sensory Garden for Pre-K Kids”** – Pre-kindergarten students at McMillan Pre-K Center in Pensacola in Escambia County will learn how to plan a school garden and grow plants with a pizza garden and a sensory garden.
14. **“Butterfly Garden”** – Sixth, seventh and eighth graders at West Glades School in LaBelle in Glades County will learn about the importance of pollination in agriculture with a school garden.
15. **“How Does a Third Grade Garden Grow?”** – Third graders at Woodlawn Elementary in Sebring in Highlands County will plant a traditional school garden, a hydroponics garden and a container garden to grow vegetables and other plants and learn about Florida agriculture.
16. **“From Seed to Table: Cultivating Good Leaders”** - Students at Avon Elementary in Avon Park in Highlands County will learn how difficult it is to grow food by expanding their hydroponics and container gardens.
17. **“Shade-Tolerant Plants of Florida”** – Students at Muller Elementary in Tampa in Hillsborough County will learn about growing plants by planting a shade garden.
18. **“Hydro Horticulturalist”** – Students at Doby Elementary in Tampa in Hillsborough County will broaden their school container garden to include a hydroponics garden.
19. **“Second Grade Vegetable Garden”** – Second graders at Dayspring Christian Academy in Marianna in Jackson County will plant a spring garden to learn how to grow plants.
20. **“Planting to Learn”** – Special needs students at Jackson Alternative School in Marianna in Jackson County will learn how to work together and how to grow plants with a school garden.
21. **“Healthy Plant, Healthy Food, Healthy Me”** – Students at Clermont Elementary in Lake County will learn about the life sciences and careers in agriculture as part of an expanded school garden project.
22. **“Green Up Eustis”** – Eighth graders at Eustis Middle School in Lake County will use hands on activities with their new hydroponics garden to learn how plants grow and provide an opportunity for an after-school agriculture/ecology club to use it as well.

23. **“Lake Minneola High School’s Square Foot Gardens”** – Students at Minneola High School in Lake County will learn about fall and spring crops by planting a school garden in which each student will have his or her own square foot area to garden.
24. **“Stone Soup Café”** – Third graders and other students at Gulf Elementary in Cape Coral in Lee County will learn how to plant and grow vegetables in a school garden and read and act out parts from the book *Stone Soup*.
25. **“Strawberry Fields Hydroponics”** – Students at St. Michael Lutheran School in Fort Myers in Lee County will learn about growing strawberries and careers in agriculture by refurbishing their existing hydroponics garden.
26. **“Belle Verde Farms: A Global Initiative”** – Students at Cape Coral High School in Lee County will create a vegetable, fruit and flower garden on campus to be used for an outdoor agricultural and environmental learning center.
27. **“Hobe Sound Horticulturalists”** – Students at Hobe Sound Elementary in Martin County will learn how to grow food and the nutritional benefits of it from a school vegetable garden.
28. **“Home Grown”** – Students at a JoAnn Bridges Academy – Department of Juvenile Justice in Greenville in Madison County will use raised bed and container gardens to learn how to grow vegetables and herbs.
29. **“Palma Sola Hydroponics Research, Garden & Technology Project** – Students at Palma Sola Elementary in Bradenton in Manatee County will learn about the parts of the plant, plant life cycles, plant cultivation and other life science applications with hydroponics and container gardens.
30. **“Dr. William A. Chapman Botanical Gardens”** – Students at Dr. William A. Chapman Elementary in Homestead in Miami-Dade County will learn about growing vegetables, herbs and flowering plants in a new raised bed garden at their school.
31. **“Project Green Proposal”** – Seventh and eighth graders at Horace Mann Middle School in Miami in Miami-Dade County will learn about raised bed design, soil science, irrigation methods, plant spacing and other agricultural concepts with an expanded raised bed garden.
32. **“Microgreens: The Ultimate Local Fast Food with Optimum Nutrients”** – Third, fourth and fifth graders at Key Largo School in Monroe County will learn about growing food using a raised bed garden and a vertical garden at school.
33. **“Seasonal Gardens of Everglades”** – Third graders at Everglades Elementary in Okeechobee in Okeechobee County will grow corn in the fall and flowering plants in the spring to learn about how to grow plants in raised bed gardens at school.
34. **“Hydroponics vs. Aeroponics vs. Traditional Farming”** – Seventh and eighth graders at Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee in Okeechobee County will compare plant growth in different mediums as part of this school project.
35. **“Florida First, Florida Future”** – Students at Harmony High School in Kissimmee in Osceola County will learn about the historical significance of agriculture in the state’s and the nation’s history.
36. **“Cooking with Class”** – Fifth graders at Forest Hill Elementary in West Palm Beach in Palm Beach County will learn how to grow produce in square foot, pizza, soup and salsa gardens and make dishes from what they grow.
37. **“A Land Remembered: Florida Agriculture History”** – Students at St. Paul Lutheran School in Lakeland in Polk County will learn how growing Florida fruits and vegetables has changed over the years and the nutritional value of these fruits and vegetables.
38. **“GrowDSA: Dirt Busters”** – Students at the Davenport School of the Arts in Polk County will learn how to grow food and the importance of recycling in this school project.

39. **“Cardinals Care Garden for Wondering Why?”** – Students at Polk Avenue Elementary in Lake Wales in Polk County will expand their school garden to include a Coir bag growing system and will receive help from a nearby high school familiar with the growing system.
40. **“Gardening in Florida and Around the World”** – Students at Moseley Elementary in Palatka in Putnam County will learn about the interdependency of society with an expanded school garden that will reach all the students in the school.
41. **“C.H. Price Middle School Garden”** – Students at C.H. Price Middle School in Interlachen in Putnam County will learn how to grow vegetables in a refurbished greenhouse and a raised bed garden.
42. **“Engineering the Garden of Tomorrow”** – Students at North Port High School in Sarasota County will learn engineering and culinary concepts with a hydroponics growing system that will provide produce for a student-run café.
43. **“Hydro Farming: Florida’s Future?”** – Seventh graders at Laurel Nokomis School in Sarasota County will learn how to grow food using a hydroponics growing system.
44. **“Hydroponics: The Potential to Solve Land Demand”** – Students at Sumter Alternative School in Sumterville in Sumter County will learn about high intensity, low space farming using a hydroponics growing system.
45. **“An Agriculture Adventure”** – Students at Suwannee Primary School in Suwannee County will learn about growing vegetables in the fall and spring from starting, maintaining and harvesting produce from it.

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