



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FUNDS 18 VOLUNTEER GRANT PROJECTS**

**GAINESVILLE** – 4-H school garden and embryology projects and a STEM field trip are just some of the 18 projects Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (FAITC) funded as part of its 2014 Volunteer Grants program. The Gainesville-based, non-profit organization spent a total of \$18,544 on the volunteer grant projects, which will reach about 54,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

“We’re happy to provide funds to these organizations to help them educate Florida students about the importance of the agriculture industry,” said Ken Barton, chairman of FAITC and executive director of the Florida Peanut Growers Association. The projects approved for funding are as follows:

1. **“GROW Rising Star”** – Pre-kindergarteners at Rising Star Academy in Gainesville in Alachua County will learn how to grow and will develop an understanding of the nutritional benefits of the fruits and vegetables grown in raised bed gardens at this facility.
2. **“Wickham Park 4-H Cooperative Coop”** – Students will learn about the life cycle of a chicken with the expansion of this embryology project by the Brevard County 4-H program in which chicken coops will be built at an office in the southern part of the county.
3. **“iFarm”** – Students in Clay County will learn about commodity production in their county with supplemental materials purchased with this grant by Clay County Farm Bureau that will complement the QR code displays developed with FAITC volunteer grant money last year.
4. **“DeSoto County AgVenture and Beyond”** – Fourth graders in DeSoto County will learn about local commodity production with supplemental materials provided at its annual AgVenture program hosted by DeSoto County Extension.
5. **“First Coast Club 4-H Greenhouse Garden”** – First Club 4-H members will learn how to grow vegetables and ornamental plants in a greenhouse in this Duval County project.
6. **“The Peanut Butter Challenge”** – Elementary and middle school students in Escambia County will learn about the Florida peanut industry by making peanut butter and learning about peanut production from local farmers as part of this 4-H project.
7. **“Pine Grove Elementary FFL Garden”** – Pine Grove Elementary students will learn about Florida horticulture and plants native to the state with a garden developed by the Hernando County Extension Office.

8. **“Jackson 4-H Ag Adventures”** – First graders in Jackson County will learn about local agriculture production by visiting different stations during an Ag Adventure program hosted by Jackson County 4-H, which include stations on fruits, vegetables and the history of Florida agriculture.
9. **“Tigers Tale 4-H”** – Elementary, middle and high school students will learn about soils, pest control and best management growing practices with this Jefferson County Extension project that involves building raised bed gardens.
10. **“Exploring Florida Agriculture through Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)”** – Fourth graders in Marion County will apply STEM concepts in this field trip to the Marion County Extension Office where they will be involved in garden design, soil analysis, irrigation system development, weather station activities and plant selection, among other activities.
11. **“Be the Change Farm to Fork Program”** – Key West area students will learn how to grow vegetables in raised bed gardens thanks to the expansion of this school garden project spearheaded by non-profit organization called Be the Change of the Florida Keys.
12. **“Learning by Doing One Day at a Time”** – Sixth graders will learn about the life cycle of a chicken and animal husbandry with this embryology project hosted by Nassau County Extension where they will watch chicks hatch in an incubator and care for the chicks afterward.
13. **“The Edible Peace Patch Project”** – Elementary students in Pinellas County will learn how to grow fruits and vegetables and how nutritious these items are with seed tables built by non-profit organization The Edible Peace Patch Project.
14. **“From Food Desert to Food Literate”** – Elementary students in Pinellas County will learn how to grow plants in Earth Boxes established by the local extension office and non-profit organization People Educating People Inc.
15. **“ABCs of Beef Cattle Alphabet”** – Elementary students in Polk County will learn about the environmental and nutritional benefits of beef cattle with a poster lesson linked to the ABCs developed by Polk County Cattlewomen.
16. **“Classroom 4-H Embryology Project in St. Johns County”** – Elementary and middle school students in St. Johns County will learn about the life cycle of chickens with this expanded embryology project hosted by St. Johns County 4-H that puts incubators in the classroom.
17. **“Fall Harvest Experience for Suwannee Valley Youth”** – Students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade will learn about heritage agriculture production in Suwannee County by visiting stations that grow the ‘three sister’ plants – legumes (or beans), pumpkins (or cucurbits) and maze (corn), among others, at this fall festival hosted by Suwannee County Extension.
18. **“Taylor County 4-H Agriculture Day”** – Fifth graders in Taylor County will learn about local commodity production by visiting the extension office and going to different stations featuring different crops grown locally, a project hosted by Taylor County 4-H.

FAITC is charged with educating Florida K-12 teachers and students about the importance of Florida agriculture. It is funded by sales of the specialty license plate also known as the Ag Tag.

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