



FLORIDA Agriculture IN THE CLASSROOM

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FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FUNDS 33 TEACHER GRANTS FOR 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

GAINESVILLE – A STEM and renewable energy school garden, an indoor grow laboratory and integrated pest management studies are a few of the projects funded by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. through its 2016-17 Teacher Grant program.

The non-profit organization selected the winning projects from 42 applications. It will spend nearly \$32,000 on the projects, which estimate they will reach more than 11,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade across the state.

The winning projects include:

- **“Nutrient Film Technique Hydroponics”** – High school students at Bradford Union Technical Center in Bradford County will purchase a complete nutrient film technique system that will be housed in a glass-domed greenhouse they are revitalizing. Students will conduct research on plant growth, water quality, fertilizer use, plant production variety, marketing, food safety and agriculture sales.
- **“Earth Treasures”** – Elementary students at Tropical Elementary in Brevard County will learn about agriculture and the environment through various lessons and plantings throughout the school year. Students will learn flower and plant parts and how to read a map using pirate- and buried-treasure themed activities.
- **“Grow Up and Grow Healthy”** - Elementary students at Ambassador Christian Academy in Brevard County will construct an edible garden through the use of hydroponics, raised beds and potted plants. The fruits and vegetables harvested will be donated to low-income families in Brevard County.
- **“Growing Minds”** – Middle school students at Parkway Middle School of the Arts in Broward County will focus on using renewable energy to power their garden. Students will experience how STEM concepts are involved in the engineering processes of planning, building and maintaining their school garden.
- **“Kids Feeding Kids in Columbia County at CHS”** – High school students at Columbia High School in Columbia County will build raised beds at 11 portable classrooms and the main building.
- **“Be Aware of What You Eat”** – Middle school students at Country Club Middle School in Dade County will cultivate plants by designing a garden, researching the design of an aquaponics/hydroponics system and growing vegetables.
- **“What’s in that Egg?”** – Middle school students at DeSoto Middle School in DeSoto County will participate in an embryology project beginning with breeding chicks and caring for chickens and ending with instructions on food safety and agricultural careers.
- **“Little Farmers”** – Second graders at Belle Terre Elementary in Flagler County will learn about Florida agriculture by growing and measuring plants in a school garden.
- **“Raised Beds and Hydroponic Gardens Refresh”** – Middle School students at West Glades School in Glades County will germinate and transplant plants in raised beds and hydroponics towers. Students will compare growth rates and production differences between the two growing systems.
- **“Thirsty Plants”** - Elementary students at Hunter’s Green Elementary in Hillsborough County will add an irrigation system to their existing school garden, and expand it with more beds so 11 more classes can participate in the project.

- **“International Garden”** – Middle School students at Williams Middle Magnet School in Hillsborough County will use their garden to raise awareness about sustainability, water conservation and nutrition.
- **“Caretakers of the Environment”** – Elementary students at Claywell Elementary in Hillsborough County will add a Grow Lab in the library where they will learn about indoor gardening. In addition, two aquaponics water gardens will be added to teach students about sustainability.
- **“Growing Gardens to Feed Minds”** – Elementary students in the after-school program at Dover Elementary in Hillsborough County will learn about the benefits of gardening and how to grow their own fruits and vegetables.
- **“Egg-actly Amazing and Berry Interesting Science!”** – Second and fifth grade students at Burney Elementary in Hillsborough County will learn about the life cycle of chicks and careers in agriculture.
- **“Promoting Growth and Cultivating Learning through Gardening”** – Elementary students at James Elementary in Hillsborough County will create six garden plots, one for each grade level. Each plot will contain vegetable and flower plants that will help build content knowledge of grade-specific standards.
- **“Breaking Ground”** – Kindergarten through third-grade students at School of the Arts and Sciences at the Centre in Leon County will create an indoor garden at their school, which is a converted shopping mall.
- **“Bee a Detective”** – Forth through eighth grade students at Dunnellon Christian Academy will learn about integrated pest management and the importance of bees in the farming industry. The school will add a beehive to its school garden area to show students how bees pollinate plants and collect honey.
- **“Hydroponic Floating Beds”** – High school students at Vanguard High School in Marion County will build eight, six-foot-by-four-foot hydroponics beds, which will produce lettuce for school cafeteria meals.
- **“Be Cool: Garden and Grow After School”** – Middle school students at Horizon Academy at Marion Oaks in Marion County are adding hydroponic towers with the goal of eventually having one tower for each student. The afterschool program has been so successful they have a waiting list of more than 100 students. The towers are used to teach students how to grow their own food, conserve water and share their harvest with their families.
- **“Florida’s Fabulous Farms”** – Sixth grade students at Dr. David L. Anderson Middle School in Martin County will learn about Florida commodities, and how to cultivate their own vegetables. They also will learn about the importance of native plants and attracting pollinators.
- **“Everglades Edible Learning”** – Elementary students at Everglades Elementary School in Okeechobee County will participate in a new agriculture program at their school. Students will rotate through the agriculture class every six days, and will establish, maintain and harvest produce from a school garden.
- **“First Grade Garden Project”** – First grade students at Narcoossee Elementary School in Osceola County will plant a flower and vegetable garden and participate in hands-on activities related to the garden.
- **“Quail Hatchery”** – Kindergarten through 12th grade students at Boca Raton Christian School in Palm Beach County will study the life cycle of the quail from egg to adult, egg production, meat production and sustainable farming practices.
- **“Going Guppy Aquaponics Lab”** – Kindergarten through eighth grade students at Academy at the Farm in Pasco County will explore the science and business associated with aquaculture while growing various plants, raising and selling guppies and marketing both their plant and animal products to the community.

- **“Cardinals Care K-5 Garden Expanding Vertically”** – Kindergarten through fifth grade science students at Polk Avenue Elementary in Polk County will add three new hydroponics stackers to their current garden and purchase fertilizer for their outdoor hydroponics classroom.
- **“Is Aeroponics the Garden of the Future”** – Kindergarten through fourth grade students at Dundee Elementary in Polk County will learn how an aeroponics tower garden operates. Students will monitor the progress of plants, experiment and collect data on the outdoor hydraulic flat tables that use soil and draw comparisons between the two growing systems.
- **“Minds in Bloom”** – Elementary students at Bethune Academy in Polk County will start tower aeroponics garden systems. Students will use the garden to measure temperature, pH levels and plant growth.
- **“INspired OUTdoor classroom”** – Elementary students at Highland City Elementary in Polk County will create a vertical “wall” garden for their outdoor classroom, and demonstrate the sustainability of aquaculture and how fish farming coupled with hydro farming can be profitable.
- **“What came first? The Chicken or the Egg?”** – Middle school special needs students at McLaughlin Middle School in Polk County will learn a fertilized egg is different than the eggs that we eat. Students will become entrepreneurs by selling eggs to staff at school. They will be involved in all steps of the project from building the chicken coop to learning about embryology.
- **“Aquaculture Lab Rebuild: Got Fish, We do”** – High school students at Interlachen High School in Putnam County will rebuild an existing aquaculture lab area.
- **“Chicks on Parade”** – Elementary students at Goldsboro Elementary in Seminole County will start an embryology project where students will be actively involved in preparing and monitoring the developmental stages of chickens.
- **“Insects! Agriculture friend and foe!”** – Middle and high school students at Westwood Christian School in Suwannee County will learn about insects and the roles they play (both bad and good) in crop production.
- **“Embryology Expedition”** – First grade students at Kate M. Smith Elementary in Washington County will learn about animal science with an embryology project.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is based in Gainesville, and is charged with educating Florida K-12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture. It does so by providing curriculum, professional development workshops and farm tours, grants programs and elementary reading program Florida Agriculture Literacy Day. It’s funded by sales of the agriculture specialty license plate known as the ‘Ag Tag.’ Motorists can purchase an Ag Tag by paying an extra \$25 above the cost of a regular license plate, \$20 of which funds FAITC programs.

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