



# FLORIDA Agriculture IN THE CLASSROOM

PO Box 110015  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
T: (352) 846-1391  
F: (352) 846-1390  
W: [www.AgTag.org](http://www.AgTag.org)

## FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FUNDS 11 VOLUNTEER GRANT PROJECTS

**GAINESVILLE** – Educational projects about beekeeping, dairy and fruit and vegetable gardens are among the 11 projects Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (FAITC) approved for funding as part of its 2016 Volunteer Grants program.

The non-profit organization selected the winning projects from 19 applications, and will spend nearly \$15,000 on the projects that will reach an estimated 5,000 students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade around the state. The winning projects include:

- **‘Brevard County 4-H Beekeeping’** – Brevard County students in kindergarten through 12th grade will learn about the importance of bees to agriculture, and how to care for a hive as part of this ‘4-H Beekeeping Club’ project. (Brevard County 4-H)
- **‘Blueberries for Sal’** – Calhoun County students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade will learn about blueberry production in Florida and the nutritional benefits of the fruit by reading children’s literature about it (*Blueberries for Sal*, *The Crunching, Munching Caterpillar*) and participating in some hands-on, interactive activities. (Calhoun County Extension)
- **‘Dairy in the Classroom’** – First graders in Columbia County will learn from nearby dairy farmers where milk comes from and how it’s used in ice cream they will make at the county fair in November. (Columbia County Extension)
- **‘Take a Peep at Poultry’** – Second and third graders in DeSoto County will learn how to raise chickens in incubators, and collect their eggs for food in this project in which the local 4-H agent will go into classrooms to educate teachers and students. (DeSoto County 4-H)
- **‘KidzXtreme: My Garden, MyPlate’** – Students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade in the urban areas of Jacksonville will learn about Florida agriculture, how to grow Florida produce and include these items in their diets for a healthy lifestyle. (KidzXtreme)
- **‘Fall Harvest Experience for Suwannee Valley Youth’** – More than 800 elementary students in Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison and Suwannee counties will learn about locally grown fruits and vegetables and the nutritional value of these items at a two-week event held at the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center in Live Oak in October. (Suwannee County Extension)
- **‘Jackson County 4-H Ag Adventures’** – Nearly 600 first graders will learn about local agriculture production by attending an agriculture day field trip at the North Florida Research and Education Center and participating in interactive stations including new fruit and vegetable stations. (Jackson County Extension)
- **‘FARM – Florida Agriculture Resources Matter’** – Students in second grade through sixth grade in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties will learn about agriculture production at the Fort Christmas Historical Park in Orange County by participating in activities at several stations. (Fort Christmas Historical Society)
- **‘Hanging with My Peeps’** – Students in kindergarten through sixth grade in Putnam County will learn about the life cycle of a chicken and how meat and eggs come from chickens by hosting an incubator in their classrooms and participating in some embryology lessons. (Putnam County Extension)

- **'4-H Agriculture Day'** – More than 250 fifth graders in Taylor County will learn about local agriculture production by visiting the Taylor County Extension Office and rotating through 10 stations related to commodities grown in the area. (Taylor County Extension)
- **'Perrine Community Faith Garden'** – More than 200 students in kindergarten through 12th grade will learn how to grow fruits and vegetables in a garden at Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. (Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church)

FAITC educates K-12 teachers and students about the importance of Florida agriculture by providing curricula, materials, professional development workshops and farm tours, grant programs and elementary reading programs like Florida Agriculture Literacy Day. It is funded by sales of the specialty license plate called the 'Ag Tag.'

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BECKY SPONHOLTZ AT (352) 846-1391 OR [sponholtz@ufl.edu](mailto:sponholtz@ufl.edu)**