



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

PO Box 110015, Gainesville FL 32611 (352)846-1391 FAX (352)846-1390
www.agtag.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM AWARDS
19 VOLUNTEER GRANTS FOR 2011

GAINESVILLE – Students in select Florida schools will learn about agriculture firsthand by growing a “nacho garden,” planting a small citrus grove and growing a hydroponic fruit and vegetable garden with projects funded by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom’s 2011 Volunteer Grants program.

The non-profit organization based in Gainesville chose 19 projects to fund with more than \$24,000, reaching students in kindergarten through 12th grade around the state. Organizations that will receive funding for these projects include county extension offices 4-H offices, middle school and high school agri-science programs, and other non-profit associations.

“Having a garden or other agriculture project at a school helps students to develop a variety of skills by providing concrete examples of oftentimes abstract ideas,” Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Chairman Jennifer Sills said. “These lessons will stay with the students for years to come.”

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom uses proceeds from the sale of the agriculture specialty license plate, or the Ag Tag, to fund its teacher and volunteer grants programs, among other Florida Agriculture in the Classroom programs.

The projects funded for this year are:

- 1. “Agricultural Exploration for Urban Youth”** – 4-H Junior Master Gardeners in **Broward County** will start an agricultural club and use the grant funding to purchase supplies, improve a garden and sponsor activities to educate youth about local agriculture
- 2. “Golden Apples in Florida”** – More than 3,500 elementary students will learn about the history of Florida citrus in **Broward County** and in Florida in this project at the Old Davie School Historical Museum by maintaining a small grove and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom activities
- 3. “Awesome Agriculture Day”** – Elementary and middle school students in **Citrus County** will learn about agriculture production in their area with

this half-day event in which they will rotate through different commodity-themed stations

4. **“Hungry for Hydroponics”** – Elementary and middle school students in **Clay County** will learn about alternative growing methods by starting a hydroponics garden and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.
5. **“Hydroponics for Health”** – Elementary and middle school students in **Clay County** will learn about the health benefits of fruits and vegetables produced using a hydroponics garden and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.
6. **“Spread Your Wings Embryology”** – Second, third, fourth and fifth graders in **Clay County** will learn animal science lessons by participating in a project in which they hatch baby quails from eggs.
7. **“Don’t Be Afraid of the Buzz of the Bee”** – Students in kindergarten through 12th grade in **Dixie County** will learn about the importance of the Florida bee industry by starting and maintaining an apiary with the help of local beekeepers and agriscience/FFA students at the Dixie County Vo-Ag School.

8. **“Escambia County Growing Gardeners”** – Elementary and middle school students in **Escambia County** will learn about local agriculture, gardening practices and healthy lifestyles by working in the extension office’s raised bed gardens
9. **“Growing Nachos”** – Farmers in **Escambia County** will teach elementary students from community centers and daycare centers about how to grow the ingredients found in nachos by planting „nacho plants” or the corn, tomatoes and beans needed to make this favorite dish.
10. **“Flagler County Ag Ventures”** – Fourth graders in **Flagler County** will learn about Florida agriculture by participating in an event in which Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons and activities will be presented.)

11. **“Jackson County 4-H Ag Adventures”** – First graders will learn a basic understanding of agriculture in **Jackson County** by participating in this field trip event.
12. **“Egg-sperience Embryology”** – Third graders in **Liberty County** will learn about life cycles of chickens with this embryology project in which local poultry farmers and a Florida Poultry Federation representative will be involved.

13. **“Ag-Venture”** – Second graders in **Marion County** will learn about local agriculture production by visiting the Southern Youth Fair and participating in stations featuring different commodities.
14. **“Plant Identification & Propagation”** – High school students at Braden River High School in **Manatee County** will learn about the horticulture industry by participating in a project in which they plant a garden and work on identifying and propagating plants.

15. “Fall Harvest Farm Experience for Suwannee Valley Youth” – Fourth graders in **Suwannee County** will learn about heritage crops grown in the area in this fall event

16. “4-H Agriculture Day” – Fifth graders in **Taylor County** will learn about local agriculture production by participating in different commodity activity stations.

17. “Farming No Longer „Dirty“” – Third, fourth and fifth graders in **Wakulla County** will learn about growing food after their teachers receive hydroponics units, Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons and guidance from local farmers, nursery owners and extension agents.

18. “Let It Bee in Wakulla County Agriculture” – Elementary students in **Wakulla County** will learn about the importance of the bee industry to Florida agriculture in this project in which their schools will receive a bee kit of materials.

19. “Walton County 4-H Embryology School Project” - Elementary and middle school students in **Walton County** will learn about animal life cycles with this embryology project and Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM’S MARKETING PROGRAM MANAGER HOLIDAY GRIFFIN AT 352-846-1391 OR VIA EMAIL AT hgriffin@ufl.edu