



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

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**FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM AWARDS
18 VOLUNTEER GRANTS FOR 2012**

GAINESVILLE - Students from select schools in Florida will learn about tropical fish farming, the life cycle of chickens and vertical gardening when they participate in some of the 2012 Volunteer Grant projects funded by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.

The Gainesville based non-profit organization provided \$20,000 in funding to 18 grant projects that will reach students in kindergarten through 12th grade from around the state. Organizations that will receive funding for these projects include county extension offices, 4-H offices, Master Gardeners, and other non-profit associations.

“Providing students with hands-on agriculture related activities and lessons not only teaches them valuable life-skills, it also helps them gain an appreciation for all that agriculture does for us,” Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Chairwoman Jennifer W. Sills said.

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 this year are:

1. **“Agriculture: Fun and Learning go Together II”** – Bradford County Extension and other volunteer groups in the county will expand school gardens from one elementary school to all four elementary schools in their counties.
2. **“Vertical Gardening”** – The Old Davie School Foundation will educate students on how to grow vegetables and the importance of eating them to good health by using a vertical growing system.
3. **“Unique Agriculture of Florida: Tropical Fish Farming”** – Columbia County Extension will provide each middle school in the county with tropical fish tanks to help them learn about that industry in Florida.
4. **“DeSoto County AgVenture Program”** – DeSoto County 4-H will organize and AgVenture program to educate fourth graders about the commodities grown in their area, and it will provide teachers with related classroom materials beforehand.

5. **“Growing Brunch”** – Escambia County 4-H will educate local students about commodity production in their area by growing produce in a garden that will be used to prepare brunch.
6. **“Solomon Book and Teacher Guide”** – Brevard County Farm Bureau will provide teachers with 25 “Solomon” student novels and teacher guides to go with them to educate students about turn-of-the century agriculture in Florida.
7. **“Jackson County 4-H Ag Adventures”** – Jackson County 4-H will organize and execute its annual AgVenture program for the county’s first graders and will use the grant money to expand its existing commodity stations.
8. **“4-H Embryology: Learning by Doing One Day at a Time”** – Nassau County Extension will expand its embryology project to include a calendar to educate 1,000 local students on the life cycle of the chicken.
9. **“Chambers Park Community Unity Garden”** – Osceola County Extension will develop a community to educate students on how to grow their own food.
10. **“Okaloosa Peeps”** – Okaloosa County Extension will assemble an incubator system to educate local students in pre-kindergarten through third grade about how to rear chickens.
11. **“South Florida Fair’s Embryology Program”** – The South Florida Fair will set up incubators in local classrooms and invite local poultry breeders to visit classrooms and educate students about raising chickens.
12. **“The Beef Cow is a Winner”** – Polk County Cattlewomen will develop a plywood game board to educate local students about beef and its byproducts.
13. **“Putnam-St. Johns Ag-Ventures”** – Putnam-St. Johns County Farm Bureau will develop an Ag-Ventures program in which local fourth graders will visit an agriculture center and visit stations to learn about local commodity production.
14. **“Highland City Gardens”** – Highland City Garden Club in Polk County will put in a garden at a local elementary school to educate students about how to grow plants.
15. **“4-H Agriculture Day”** – Taylor County 4-H will host its annual AgVenture program to educate local fifth graders about commodity production in their area.
16. **“Florida Agriculture during Annual 4-H Youth Fair”** – Washington County 4-H will create educational displays to educate students about Florida agriculture during its annual 4-H Youth Fair.
17. **“What’s Cooking in Florida’s Kitchens”** – Wakulla County Extension will learn about Florida commodities and their nutritional value during a food preparation and preservation activities.
18. **“Catch the Buzz on Bees in Wakulla County”** – Wakulla County 4-H will educate students about the importance of bees to Florida agriculture in Wakulla, Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, Gulf, Calhoun, Liberty and Taylor counties by developing educational units beekeepers will use in local classroom presentations.

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