



# Core-iculum Connections

FREE lessons, materials & resources for K-12 teachers!

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## Soil Sams

Watch seeds sprout and grow 'hair' with these simple Soil Sams. Students will learn what a seed needs to grow!

## Save the Dates:

**AG Week - March 19 - 25**

**March 23, - 7 a.m. - Ag Breakfast @ Doubletree Hotel**

**March 25 - Grand Opening: McLean County Museum of History Ag Exhibit**

**March 27 - Children's Discovery Museum - AITC Wheat Activities from (10 am - 1 pm)**

**June 6 - 8, 2017 - Summer Ag Institute**

## Growing Great Learning Opportunities!

Looking for a spring activity to help your students understand the growth and development of a seed and the factors that affect it?

Here are a few easy activities that you can include in your curriculum or use as a Friday fun activity.

Illinois Ag in the Classroom Garden Activities booklet:

<http://bit.ly/2nnjgaQ>

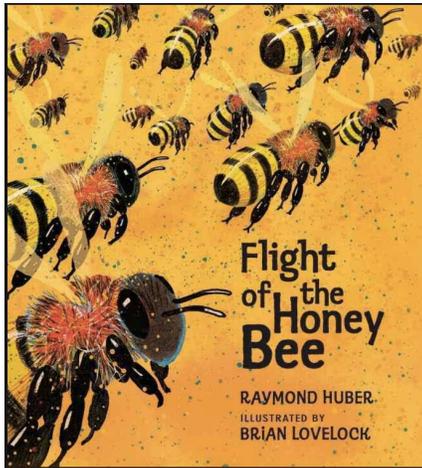
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For plant activities & supplies, books or other materials to connect spring lessons to agriculture, contact Bridget Caldwell at [aitctablet@gmail.com](mailto:aitctablet@gmail.com).

### Garden in a Glove



## Featured Resources: Pollinators



### Flight of the Honey Bee by Raymond Huber

**Age Range:** 3 - 7 years

**Grade Level:** Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> grade

*“Scout remembers what she passes as she flies, so later she can return home. She knows the sun will guide her too.”*

Follow the flight of a honeybee as she searches for nectar to sustain her hive and, along the way, pollinates flowers to produce seeds and fruits.

To check out a copy, contact Bridget Caldwell: [aitctablet@gmail.com](mailto:aitctablet@gmail.com)

For a nonfiction resource, take a look at Pollinators Terra Nova:

<http://bit.ly/2nwONY6>

For additional Pollinator books, visit <http://www.mcleanaitc.org>

### Hands-on Activity: Honey Bees: A Pollination Simulation

**Common Core State Standards:** Reading, Speaking & Listening, Language; Anchor Standards (See bottom of lesson for details)

**Next Generation Science Standards:** National Standards: 3-LS1, 4-LS1

Students will identify the parts of a honeybee, the stages of its life cycle, and its role in pollination. <http://bit.ly/2mbwDdZ>

Contact Bridget Caldwell: [aitctablet@gmail.com](mailto:aitctablet@gmail.com) for supplies & materials to use in your classroom!



### Hands-on Activity: Flight of the Bumble Bee

**Subjects:** Science, Earth Sciences, General Science

**Grade Levels:** Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Students will use their bee finger puppets to fly over to the flower that contains "pollen" (Cheetos). When the students touch the Cheetos, the dust clings to their fingers (the bees' legs) and then they fly to the next flower to pollinate it. When they land their bee puppets on the next flower, the "pollen" comes off.

Contact Bridget Caldwell: [aitctablet@gmail.com](mailto:aitctablet@gmail.com) for supplies & materials to make bees fly around your classroom!

**Teacher Feature:** Katie Buckley – The Purple Plow Challenge

Katie Buckley teaches an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM Exploration Class at LeRoy JR High. She is currently working with her students on The Purple Plow Challenge.

The Purple Plow Challenge is made available to students by The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) and made possible through generous support of our title sponsor, Dupont Pioneer. There is a new challenge every year, LeRoy JR High has chosen to do an aquaponics system.

The project helps students explore a sustainable food source. The plants feed the fish and the fish byproduct feeds the plants.

Students took the lead in this project by researching best practices for an aquaponics system. They determined what edible plants to grow, what fish to use and what to plant the plants in. Students came up with a design and implemented it into a productive aquaponics system. They run a Twitter account @H2GrowLJHS. They also test the pH daily.



**Do bees matter  
 for our food?**



**Yes!**

Bees pollinate more than 70 of the 100 crop species that provide 90% of the world's food.

**Ag Week: @ Children's Discovery Museum: Mar 27 – Apr. 1 (10 am – 1 pm)**



**Key term: Pollinator**

Moves pollen from the male anthers of a flower to the female stigma of a flower resulting in fertilization.

Check out Ag week Activities @ The Children's Discovery Museum in Normal!

**Day Camp: Farm to Table  
 Wednesday, March 29**

Join us as we learn about agriculture, plant some vegetable and herb seeds to start your own garden at home, learn how to make butter, and more!

**Time: 9:00 am – 5:00pm**  
**Cost: \$40 Members/\$45 Non-Members**

Pre-registration required by 3/22/17

**See baby chicks every day!**

- **Monday, March 27**  
 Butter Making  
 Plant Life Cycle

- **Tuesday, March 28**  
 Butter Making  
 Clean Water – Undo Pollution
- **Wednesday, March 29**  
 Plant Life Cycle  
 Clean Water – Undo Pollution
- **Thursday, March 30**  
 Pumpkins  
 Clean Water – Undo Pollution
- **Friday, March 31**  
 Pumpkins  
 Butter Making
- **Saturday, April 1**  
 Pumpkins  
 Butter Making  
 Clean Water

For more information on Ag Week contact Bridget Caldwell:  
[aitctablet@gmail.com](mailto:aitctablet@gmail.com)



Follow us on  
Pinterest to find  
great ideas for  
your classroom!



[www.pinterest.com/  
mcleanaitc](http://www.pinterest.com/mcleanaitc)

## Chick-It-Out: Spring 2017

Get ready to hatch some hands-on learning with the 2017 Chick It Out Program!

Designed primarily for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms, but adaptable for all grade levels preschool through high school, participating students explore the science of embryology by caring for a dozen fertilized eggs during the 21-day incubation period.

Each classroom will be provided with an incubator and one dozen fertile eggs. This year's teachers will be given the 4-H Embryology Curriculum which includes the Teachers Guide, Chick Quest 21 Day Poster and a logbook.

All materials are provided at no cost to schools. For those who have already registered April 4<sup>th</sup> the eggs will be available for pick up. Also don't forget about the Embryology Professional Development event for "Chick it Out" March 21, 2017 from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact University of Illinois Extension office at (309) 663-8306 or Emily Sadler at [esadler@illinois.edu](mailto:esadler@illinois.edu).

For additional chicken and poultry activities, books and materials, contact Bridget Caldwell at [aitctablet@gmail.com](mailto:aitctablet@gmail.com).

## McLean County Museum of History – New Ag Exhibit to Open



The Museum's next new permanent exhibit, Challenges, Choices, & Change; Farming in the Great Corn Belt, will open to the public on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 10 a.m. with an opening program at 11 a.m. All exhibits will be free to the public until 5 p.m. thanks to generous sponsors including Country Financial, GROWMARK & IL Farm Bureau. Free activities including making butter will be offered from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

# Agriculture 'STEM'ing the Next Generation

## Special Topic Workshop

# JUNE 6 - 9, 2017

-  3 1/2 Days of field trips, tours & hands on lesson ideas.
-  Geared for pre-K to grade 12 educators
-  Earn 25 PDCHs (professional development clock hours), plus 2 graduate level college credit hours available for an additional fee.
-  Learn about **FREE** resources for STEM lessons aligned with Common Core & Next Generation Science Standards.
-  Take home lesson ideas, materials & grant opportunities for use in your classroom next year!

**COST: \$95/** per person

includes: materials, transportation,  
lunches & snacks.

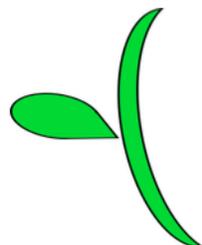
Optional graduate credit -  
Aurora University: **\$200**  
(additional fee for 2 credit hours)

Registration deadline: **MAY 11, 2017**

Register at **[www.mcleanaitc.org](http://www.mcleanaitc.org)** or call **(309)838-8304**

Instructors: **Bridget Caldwell:** McLean County Fair Ag in the Classroom Coordinator & retired Unit 5 teacher.

**Julie King:** Retired LeRoy K-4 teacher & 2003 winner of the National Ag in the Classroom "Excellence in Teaching" Award.



Sponsored by: McLean County Fair Ag In The Classroom

