



Ag in the Classroom

Spring 2018

Core-iculum Connections

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

In this Issue:

- M&M Marketing & More
- Featured Resources: Math & Science Activities
- “Food Evolution” Film Screening
- Purple Plow Challenge: Grow Your Community
- Children’s Discovery Museum-Ag Week
- Ag Science Grant Winners
- Chick-It-Out 2018

Futures Farming

WORKSHEET

STEP 1: Do not open your bag of M&M's yet. Predict how many of each color of M&M's candy you will get in your bag. You will have approximately 55-60 M&M's in the bag.

Blue: 8 Brown: 5 Red: 12 Orange: 12 Yellow: 12 Green: 6

STEP 2: This is the pre-harvest phase. Would you like to sell your crop (or M&M's) before you harvest it and get a premium price for your commodity? Let's say your teacher (or grain elevator) will pay \$4.50 now or \$4.00 once you open your bag. Your teacher will also pay \$4.75 for green M&M's or \$4.25 after the bag is opened.

Pre-sold corn: Place the number you wish to sell in the first blank.

Blue	6	x \$4.50 =	27.00
Brown	3	x \$4.50 =	13.50
Red	10	x \$4.50 =	45.00
Orange	10	x \$4.50 =	45.00
Yellow	10	x \$4.50 =	45.00
Green	6	x \$4.75 =	28.50
Total Sold:	45		Total Made: \$ 204.00

Edible Economics!

Use M&Ms to teach about math and economics with a fun hands-on activity! Students will learn about futures markets and ways farmers sell their crop. Contact Bridget Caldwell at aitctablet@gmail.com or (309)838-8304 for supplies!

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 22 at 6:30 pm
FREE “Food Evolution” film screening at Braden Auditorium, Illinois State University

March 14 at 4 pm
Embryology Workshop

March 22 at 7 am
Chamber Ag Breakfast @ Double Tree Hotel

March 26 – 30 - Ag Week
Children’s Discovery Museum Ag Activities

M&M Marketing & More

Make math and marketing concepts a little sweeter with a hands-on M&M activity!

Using a bag of M&M candies to represent a crop, students will learn about futures markets and commodity prices.

The lesson incorporates basic economic concepts and math calculations adaptable for 4th to 8th grades.

Before they open the bag, students predict how many candies of each color.

Once the bag is opened and the candies are counted, students

choose how to market their “crop” and maximize profits.

Lesson extensions can also include calculating averages and making bar graphs.

Upper level grades can gain more experience with futures markets using free simulations at www.commoditychallenge.com.

Find the lesson plan on the Illinois Ag in the Classroom website at <http://bit.ly/2o1sMTG>.

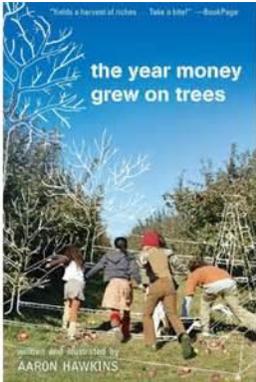
Contact McLean County Ag Literacy Coordinator, Bridget Caldwell, to request supplies (information below).



Bridget Caldwell, Coordinator • aitctablet@gmail.com • (309) 838-8304
McLean County Fair Ag in the Classroom • www.mcleancountyaitc.org



Featured Resources: Math & Science



Novel: The Year Money Grew on Trees

Author: Aaron Hawkins
Interest Level: 10-14 yrs

“With frostbitten fingers, sleepless nights, and sore muscles, 14-year-old Jackson Jones and his posse of cousins discover the lost art of winging it when they take over an orchard of 300 wild apple trees.”

The book incorporates math as the characters try to make \$8,000 to gain ownership of the orchard plus the science of growing apples.

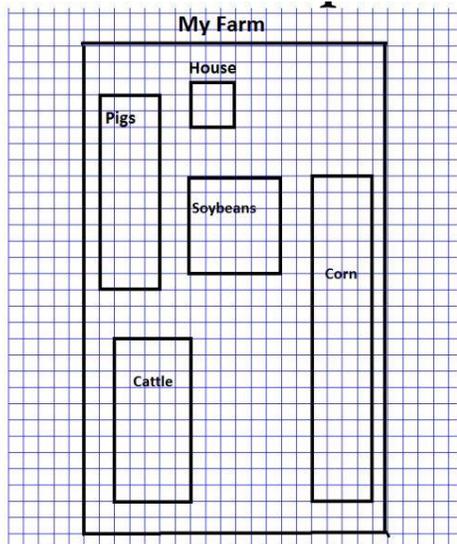
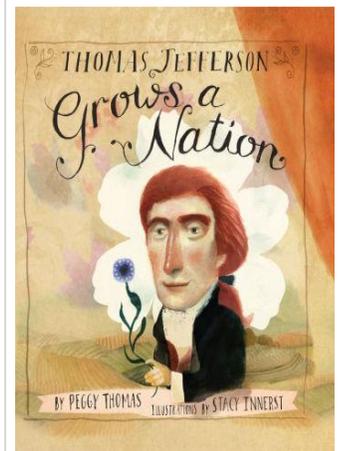
Nonfiction: Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation

Author: Peggy Thomas
Grade Level: 4-7 Lexile Measure: 1120

“Thomas Jefferson was more than a president and patriot. He was also a planter and gardener who loved to watch things grow—everything from plants and crops to even his brand-new nation.”

Enjoy this book with your class! Find plenty of math and science activities to pair with it including Plot-a-Lot (below), Garden in a Glove, Specimen Box & more.

Find the full booklet of activities on the Illinois Ag in the Classroom website:
<http://bit.ly/2pySzRD>



Hands-On Activity: Plot-a-Lot

Thomas Jefferson designed and mapped his farm to make the best use of the land.

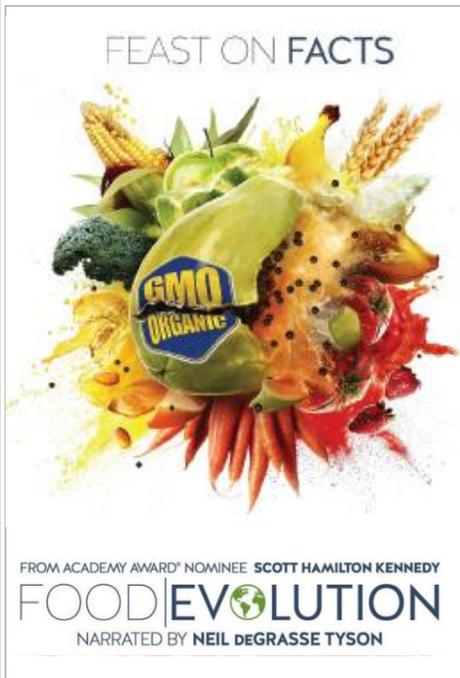
Students will use graph paper to design their own farm and learn about length, width, area and perimeter.

Available Resources:

- Multiple copies of Thomas Jefferson Builds a Nation book
- Ag Mags - Livestock, Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Urban
- Activity supplies & more

To request materials contact Bridget Caldwell, Ag Literacy Coordinator (information below).

Join us! FREE Food Evolution Screening



FREE Showing
 & panel discussion
 of acclaimed documentary
FOOD EVOLUTION

Thurs., Feb 22 at 6:30 p.m.
Braden Auditorium
Illinois State University

hosted by:



**Dig into the science of
 biotechnology & GMOs!**

“FOOD EVOLUTION aims to take a look at the science underlying the heated rhetoric of the GMO debate, (and) realizes that the GMO debate isn’t just about the science. It’s about financial interests, fear, and fake news.” – PLOS One

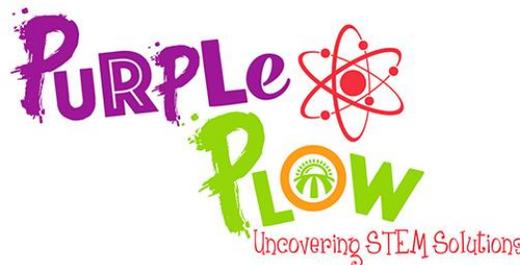
Ag Week at CDM March 26-30



Celebrate Ag Week at the Children’s Discovery Museum in Normal March 26-30!

Find special food & farm related activities at the Innovation Station all week.

For more information, contact Education Manager, Rachel Carpenter at (309) 433-3449 or rcarpenter@normal.org.



Purple Plow STEM Challenge: Growing Your Community

More than 42 million Americans live in food insecure households, meaning they lack access to a consistent supply of adequate food.

Engage your students in finding solutions with the spring 2018 Purple Plow challenge: Growing Your Community!

To complete the challenge students must create, construct and

maintain a soil-based environment suitable for edible plant growth.

Find details and a facilitator’s guide at www.purpleplow.org.

All teams who complete the challenge by May 1, 2018 will be entered to win one of eight \$500 grants. Top three entries win a 3D printer and a Visa gift card.

2017-18 Ag Science Grant Winners

From drones to renewable energy, three McLean County teachers received Ag Science Grants to incorporate agriculture into their classroom.

Adria Carter, Towanda Elementary, will use grant funding to purchase equipment for **“Renewable Energy – Exploring the Technology.”** The project will take a look at ethanol production and other energy sources.

Katie Buckley, LeRoy Junior High received funding for a project called, **“Drones Impact on Agriculture.”** The goal is for students to learn about ways unmanned aerial vehicles can be used in farming.

Kristin Myers, Tri-Valley High School will use grant funds for **“Tri-Valley Greenhouse – the place to be so excited you wet your plants!”** The project will bring horticulture lessons to elementary and middle school students in the school greenhouse.

Funding for the Ag Science grants is provided by the McLean County Farm Bureau Foundation.

Ag science includes application of soil, plant or animal sciences; computer science, mechanics or technology; and chemistry, physics or environmental sciences to the production of food, feed, fuel & fiber. For more information visit: www.mcfb.org/grants.



Did you know?
Agriculture
 offers more than
300
 career choices!

Chick-It-Out 2018 - Eggs-cellent Embryology!



Teacher Workshop: Embryology

March 14 ♦ 4 to 6 p.m.
at Evergreen FS

402 N Hershey, Bloomington

- Earn 2 PDCHs
- Pick up incubators & supplies
- Learn about supplemental resources & activities

Register online by March 1 at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu>

Get ready to hatch some hands-on learning with the 2018 Chick-It-Out Program!

Aimed for 3rd grade classrooms, 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. All materials are provided at no cost to schools.

Teachers will receive the 4-H Embryology Curriculum which includes the Teachers Guide, Chick Quest 21 Day Poster and a logbook.

Teachers can also attend an **Embryology Workshop March 14** – see details to the left.

Egg pick-up will be April 3. To sign-up, contact Emily Saddler esaddler@illinois.edu or call the University of Illinois Extension Office at (309) 663-8306.

For additional activities, books and materials, contact Bridget Caldwell at aitctablet@gmail.com or (309) 838-8304.

More than 2,400 students participated in Chick-It-Out last year and 2018 will mark the 28th year of this program.

Chick-It-Out is made possible through the generous support of University of Illinois Extension McLean County, Illinois Ag in the Classroom, McLean County Farm Bureau and McLean County Fair.