

# Beefed Up Field Trips, Ag Fairs

Agriculture provides a sensual field trip experience for students. Whether it's a trip to a farm or to the county fair grounds for an ag-fair, children have the opportunity to learn about agriculture and engage their senses. But, it is important that children



continue to be exposed to agriculture education when they get back from the trip. What students learn after the visit is equally as important as what they learned before and during the trip.

## Learning Begins Before the Trip

As the date of the field trip approaches, introduce the students to what they will be learning. A combination of activities such as the following will ensure the students have meaningful, worthwhile experience.

- Introduce the topic to the students and teachers. What is it? Why do we need this product or service? How does it directly affect students?

- Give background information to the teacher on the subject, outlining its

importance and developments through history.

- Develop a topic-specific vocabulary list.

- Collect and examine news articles about the subject the students will be studying.

- Ask students what they expect the learning experience to be like, then review these expectations after the trip. Were they right?

- After researching the topic, have the students make a list of questions to ask during the upcoming learning experience.

## Learning Continues After the Trip

Here are some ways you can help teachers beef up their ag-related field trips:

- Ask students what they thought was most interesting about the day. Make charts, diagrams and presentations based on the trip.

- Also ask students what they did not learn but wish they had; these questions

could form the basis of a research assignment or follow-up lesson. Provide the teacher with lesson plans that relate to the out-of-classroom learning experience.

- Sharing information is important. This can be done as a class, in small groups or through a collaborative project like a class newspaper where each student contributes an article related to the farm trip or a topic covered during the ag fair.

- Make connections with students. Did they realize how important agriculture is in their community? How dependent are we on the industry? Put things into perspective: everyone eats, needs medicine and used other products from animals and agriculture. Make the link from students as consumers to farmers as producers.

- Finally, evaluate the trip for your personal records. Would you do it again? What would you do differently? What did the students learn? Be sure to get input from the teachers, too. Keep this record for future reference so that you can improve the experience.

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## Growing A Nation to appear on ICN

Educators have an opportunity to learn about agriculture's role in *Growing A Nation* by participating in an interactive presentation via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). The session will take place on Tuesday, October 21 at 3:30 p.m. Teachers will be able to participate from their local ICN classrooms.

*Growing A Nation's* chronological presentation of significant historical events focuses on the important role agriculture has played in America's development. Participants will experience the program's instructional unit and will receive a copy of the *Growing A Nation* CD.

This interactive program is a useful resource for U.S. history teachers. Each lesson includes several screens that, with the use of multimedia, engage students in the story. This ICN presentation will provide

educators with classroom resources and activities including: primary sources, assessment options, an easily navigated timeline, photo gallery and the national educational standards met by this program.

The session, offered through Iowa Public Television's K-12 Connections program, is free to Iowa educators.

Feel free to promote this program to your local teachers. To participate, go to [www.k12connections.iptv.org](http://www.k12connections.iptv.org) to register.

If you have questions about the content of the program, please contact Melissa Brooks at 515-225-5425 or [mbrooks@ifbf.org](mailto:mbrooks@ifbf.org). If you have questions about the IPTV K-12 Connections program, you can contact Abby Brown at 800-532-1290 or [abby@iptv.org](mailto:abby@iptv.org).

## Spotlight Lesson Plan

### *High Five Burger*

**Grade:** Fifth Grade

**Subjects:** Language Arts, Social Studies

**Standards:** Make connections through the use of oral and written language, media and technology.

Apply key geographic concepts to the United States.

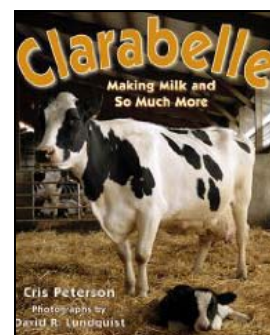
**Source:** A Farmer Grows a Rainbow.  
[www.agclassroom.org/rainbow/index.htm](http://www.agclassroom.org/rainbow/index.htm)

## AITC Book Report

*Clarabelle: Making Milk and So Much More*

By: Cris Peterson  
ISBN: 1590783107  
Grades: K-3

Everyone knows that cows produce milk, which is great for drinking and also is made into cheese, butter, ice cream and yogurt. But also electricity, fertilizer and compost for animal stalls? Yes, cows produce these too! The author describes all the latest technology that enable farmers to create energy and other by-products from their herds.

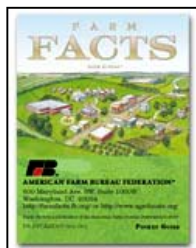


## Additional AITC Resources

### Farm Facts Posters

Featuring five popular pages from the American Farm Bureau Farm Facts books, these posters are perfect for displaying in classrooms and teacher lounges. Five poster sets are available for \$10. You can view or order the posters on-line through the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) at [www.ageducate.org](http://www.ageducate.org).

Other fun give-a-way items available from the AFBFA include "I Met a Farmer" stickers, Farm Facts Pocket Guide and farm facts pencils.



### All About Farmers' Markets

The *All About Farmers' Markets: A Teaching Guide for Classrooms, Camps, and Community Programs* curriculum uses an interdisciplinary approach to introduce kids (PK-2 grades) to food concepts and origins, while exploring farmers' markets and their role in our communities. The guide is available for \$24.95 from Brain Child Books. The corresponding picture book (\$4.29) is also available in Spanish. Bulk rates are available. To learn more, go to [www.brainchildpress.com](http://www.brainchildpress.com).

