



CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING FARM BUREAU AG IN THE CLASSROOM COORDINATORS TO IOWA SCHOOLS

DEVELOPING 21st CENTURY SKILLS THROUGH AGRICULTURE

21st Century Skills represent the skills, knowledge and expertise students should master to succeed in work and life.

Students need to obtain:

Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes: global awareness; financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy

Learning and Innovation Skills: creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration

Information, Media and Technology Skills: access and evaluate information, use and manage information, analyze media, technology applications, media formats

Life and Career Skills: flexibility, adaptability, initiative, self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity, accountability, leadership, responsibility

When schools combine the 21st Century Skills framework with professional development, assessments and standards, the American public can be sure high school graduates are prepared to thrive in today's global economy.

Source: Partnership for 21st Century Skills.



AG IN THE CLASSROOM



How Ag Fits Into the Framework

Teachers see you as a credible source regarding agriculture. When talking with teachers, be sure to emphasize the ways agriculture can fit into the 21st Century Skills framework. This is an excellent opportunity to blend current agriculture issues with key educational trends. Examples may include:

Iowa's role in feeding the world
Economics of food, fiber and energy production
Environmental stewardship
Safe, economical food supply
Business management
Rural economic development
Verifying research

Role of community, county, state and country
Hands-on science experiments
Animal care
Career exploration
Product marketing
Health and nutrition
Current events

CONNECT WITH AITC STAFF

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Mini-Grants for Schools Served by RECs

Any K-12 grade classroom teacher whose school or community is served by a local Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) is eligible to apply for a mini-grant from the National Rural Cooperative Association. Ten grants up to \$500 each will be awarded to projects that feature the science of energy or electricity, and include coordination with the local REC. Applications can be obtained at www.nrea.net/filestore/MiniGrantProgram2009.doc and the submission deadline is May 15.

Applications being accepted for BH 2009

Business Horizons (BH) is a week-long experience, July 26-31, held on the Simpson College campus in Indianola. This unique program gives students an opportunity to gain an understanding of economics, the free enterprise system and a wide variety of careers while working in a team environment. During the week, students will create a product (during the Junk Game), run a mock business, develop a marketing plan and present to potential investors. It also improves leadership skills, personal development and networking. Agriculture and its impact on our state is woven into the week's curriculum.

To learn more, call 800-383-4224 or go to www.businesshorizonsiowa.com.

Teachers Academy Dates Announced

The academy is an excellent opportunity for teachers and Farm Bureau members to learn how to integrate agriculture into the curriculum. Attendees will learn about Iowa's agricultural commodities and participate in hands-on lessons that teach the importance of agriculture and its impact on Iowa communities. Through this process, student activities and lesson plans will be developed and shared. To register with course credit, register with the Area Education Agency. If no credit is needed, register directly with the Iowa Farm Bureau at 515-225-5512.

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|------------|---|
| June 9-10 | Iowa Western Community College, Clarinda Recertification credit \$60, Drake credit \$155 AEA 13—800-432-5804; www.aea13.k12.ia.us |
| June 16-17 | Nelson Pioneer Farm, Oskaloosa Recertification credit \$25, Drake credit \$85, Morningside credit \$75 Great Prairie AEA—800-382-8970; www.gpaea.k12.ia.us |
| June 22-23 | Fairgrounds, Spirit Lake This academy is coordinated by the Dickinson County Farm Bureau. Call 712-336-3289 for details. |
| July 7-8 | Lawrence Community Center, Anamosa Recertification credit \$25, Drake credit \$100, Morningside credit \$75 Grant Wood AEA—800-798-9771; www.aea10.k12.ia.us |



Spotlight Lesson Plan

This Little Piggy Stayed Home
Grades ... First through Fourth
Subject ... Language Arts



Book Report

The Man Who Fed the World
Author ... Leon Hesser
Age ... 12-Adult

An amazing biography that engages the reader in the story of Norman Borlaug, a man who saved hundreds of millions of lives from starvation. American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Book of the Year.



Ag Celebrations

April ...
School Library Month
Recommended Resource:

www.agaware.org/agandyou.pdf

April 22 ... Earth Day

Recommended Resource: www.iasoybeans.com

May ...

Barbecue Month

Hamburger Month

Recommended Resource: www.iabeef.org

Egg Month

Recommended Resource: www.iowaegg.org

Salad Month

Salsa Month

May 5 ... Teacher Appreciation Day

May 3-9 ... Teacher Appreciation Week

May 12 ... Adventures in Ag Reading: Farmers

Markets ICN program. www.k12connections.iptv.org



Website of Interest

[www.twitter.com/
IowaAgClassroom](http://www.twitter.com/IowaAgClassroom)

With consumers two to three generations removed from the farm coupled with new online tools, it's important to use every available medium to connect consumers to farming. Follow me - IowaAgClassroom - on Twitter. Read my "tweets" to receive ideas on incorporating agriculture in the classroom.



Talk the Talk

Action Reflection Tool:

A structured discussion held during a teacher meeting in which participants focus on a limited topic.

AITC Connection: To help the teacher focus on agriculture, ask, "I believe that agriculture connects to your life every single day. I challenge you to prove me wrong."

This Little Piggy Stayed Home

Objective To gain an understanding about the types of housing used in the swine industry.

Academic

Standards Language Arts: Write to express self. Uses proper grammar. Spells words correctly.
Uses the writing process to develop a story.

Multiple

Intelligences Linguistic, Visual-Spatial, Naturalist

Introduction Some pigs are raised in pastures and others are raised in barns, depending on the farm. Barns protect the pigs from extreme temperatures with heaters for cold weather and fans or water sprinklers for hot weather. Barns also protect pigs from bad weather such as rain or snow, which helps keep the pigs cleaner.

Materials

Needed Word Search worksheet
This Little Piggy Stayed Home worksheet

Activity

Instructions The “This Little Piggy Stayed Home” lesson pairs letter and word recognition with story development. This lesson design has four parts including an opening activity, a word search, a story, and a closing activity.

Opening Activity

Have students share with a partner three features of their house and how those three features make them feel. (i.e. Heat makes me feel warm.)

Word Search

Students should complete the “This Little Piggy Stayed Home” word search puzzle by finding the words provided. This activity allows for letter recognition, word recognition, as well as spelling.

Story

The words found in the word search are used to complete the fill in the blank story “This Little Piggy Stayed Home.” This activity allows students to recognize proper English and grammar, and develop a story.

Closing Activity

Ask the students to discuss or write if they think pigs like to be inside or outside. Have them explain why they think this way and to provide examples. Once complete, ask if anyone wants to share their thoughts.

Worksheet:

Word Search

Name: _____

Locate the words listed below in the word search. Words may appear forward, backward, vertical, horizontal or diagonal.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | C | A | P | S | L | A | N | O | S | R | E | P |
| P | N | K | N | Q | G | Q | T | V | M | X | H | F |
| R | P | A | M | N | M | X | T | Z | H | N | R | R |
| O | F | M | H | E | A | L | T | H | Y | C | E | E |
| D | R | H | I | L | R | L | L | M | R | A | T | S |
| U | J | T | C | S | N | K | L | O | D | L | A | H |
| C | Y | F | T | R | T | Z | V | E | O | M | W | F |
| T | Z | T | H | G | H | E | T | X | H | C | H | E |
| I | M | L | G | T | X | A | R | M | D | N | S | E |
| V | M | J | I | H | E | Z | H | S | B | B | E | D |
| E | L | W | R | H | M | C | K | L | M | J | R | L |
| Q | M | H | B | Z | C | Y | Z | X | V | E | F | R |
| K | R | K | F | T | L | T | P | M | H | Y | J | H |

Bright
Fans
Healthy
Misters

Calm
Fresh Feed
Heated
Personal Space

Cool
Fresh Water
Herd
Productive

Worksheet:

This Little Piggy Stayed Home

Name:

Using the words found in the word search, fill in the blanks to complete the story.

Once upon a time there was a _____ of pigs who lived under the stars. They loved spring time and fall. But in the summer they were too hot. And in the winter they were too cold. Mr. Farmer, their care taker, noticed they were not as healthy when the weather was hot and cold.

One hot summer day Mr. Farmer moved them into an environmentally controlled building. The lights made the building _____ just like outside. _____ blew a soft breeze through the building. _____ added a little water to the breeze making the air feel nice and _____. The cool temperatures allowed the pigs to be relaxed and _____.

During the winter the building was _____ just like Mr. Farmer's house; and the pigs loved being in the warm building away from the cold winter wind.

All day the pigs enjoyed cool _____ to drink. When Mr. Farmer fed the pigs, they ate _____ too. During meal time the pigs enjoyed having their own _____ so the pigs didn't have to fight with the other pigs to get their food.

Mr. Farmer moved the pigs to the building so they would be _____ and _____. The pigs loved their new home, and Mr. Farmer loved it too.