

South East Iowa

AREA NEWS

MAHASKA . KEOKUK . WASHINGTON . LOUISA . MUSCATINE . MONROE . WAPELLO
JEFFERSON . HENRY . DES MOINES . APPANOOSE . DAVIS . VAN BUREN . LEE

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chopton@ifbf.org

Taco Soup

Pat McElhaney, Black Hawk County

Ingredients:

1 large can diced tomatoes	beans (drained)	use Hidden Valley Fiesta Ranch Dip)
2 cans black beans (drained)	1 can of pinto beans (drained)	1 pkg. taco seasoning
1 can red beans (drained)	1 can corn (drained)	1 lb. ground beef (browned and drained)
1 can dark kidney	1 can Rotelle tomatoes	
	1 pkg. dry Hidden Valley Ranch dip (l	

Instructions:

Put all ingredients in the crockpot; add ground beef, stir and set on low setting for 6-8 hours or 4 hours on high. Serve with shredded cheese, a teaspoon of sour cream and Tostitos Scoops.

Cappuccino Punch

Marjorie Brunsting, Sioux County

Ingredients:

1/2 c. sugar	1 c. boiling water	8 c. milk (1/2 gallon)
1/4 c. instant coffee granules	Mix and chill	4 c. vanilla ice cream
	Add:	4 c. chocolate ice cream

Instructions:

Stir in the ice cream and place in punch bowl. Serve and enjoy.

Please email your favorite recipes to chopton@ifbf.org or mail to: Communications Division, Spokesman Recipes, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266.



One of Mrs. Denberger's kindergarten students from North Mahaska has created a colorful plate! Thanks to Mrs. Denberger for inviting Karen Adams to inspire her students about agriculture.

COLORS ON MY PLATE!

Submitted by Mahaska

AITC coordinator Karen Adams visited Mrs. Denberger's kindergarten class at North Mahaska. The students are eating carrots and coloring their MyPlate color-

ing sheet after learning about how the farmer grows a rainbow with AITC. The students learned where the food on their plate comes from. Thank you farmers for growing us so many colorful foods!

BRUMMER NAMED IFBF FARMER EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER

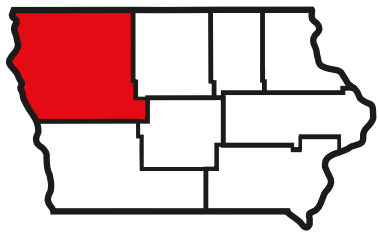
Submitted by Keokuk

The IFBF has named Zach Brummer as its farmer education program manager. Brummer will develop and implement farmer education programming for FB members, including marketing, risk management and other farm business needs. He succeeds Ed Kordick, who retired in late 2022 after more than 30 years of service. Prior to joining IFBF, Brummer served as a grain and feed merchandiser and senior market manager for The Scoular Company for nearly a decade and was most recently feed ingredient sales manager with Calyxt. Brummer was raised on a family farm in Warren County, where his family grows corn and soybeans, manages a cow/calf herd and raises sheep. The Simpson College graduate resides on a small third generation family farm in rural Warren County with his wife, Nicola, and three children.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Pekin and Fairfield's fourth and fifth graders have been learning all about beef the past two weeks! Students have explored concepts of heredity in beef cattle and identifying dominant and recessive traits. Students have also learned how genes effect important traits such as growth, reproduction, disease resistance, behavior and how that all plays a role in a rancher's decision when raising cattle. The kids are really enjoying this series! Submitted by Jefferson





North West Iowa

AREA NEWS

LYON . OSCEOLA . DICKINSON . EMMET . SIOUX . O'BRIEN . CLAY . PALO ALTO .
PLYMOUTH . CHEROKEE . BUENA VISTA . POCAHONTAS . WOODBURY . IDA
SAC . CALHOUN . MONONA . CRAWFORD . CARROLL . GREENE

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FARM BUREAU AG INNOVATION CHALLENGE APPLICATIONS OPEN

Submitted by Dickinson, Sac

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) is seeking entrepreneurs to apply for the 2024 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. Now in its 10th year, the national business competition offers \$165,000 in startup funds throughout the course of the competition, which will culminate in the top 10 semifinalists competing in a live pitch competition at

the AFBF Convention in January 2024 in Salt Lake City. Applications are due by May 12. Entrants must be Farm Bureau members. Two Iowa companies – ChopLocal and ReEnvision Ag – were among the top 10 semifinalists in the 2023 competition. Previous Ag Innovation Challenge winners from Iowa are ScoutPro in 2015, Accu-Grain in 2016, SwineTech in 2018 and FarmlandFinder in 2019.

MARCH IS READ ACROSS IOWA MONTH!

Submitted by Crawford

Read Across Iowa is celebrated throughout the month of March to help motivate kids to read. The month-long celebration brings the joys of reading to students of all ages and make all chil-

dren feel valued and welcomed. You can help support them with engagement ideas, learning resources and more. For full details, visit www.iowaagliteracy.org/Tools-Resources/Other/Read-Across-Iowa.



Pictured from left: Carter Kruse, Colton Happe, Oscar George, Brody Cowan, Joe Pitts, Adrie Ducommun, Keegan Volkert, Kyler Ducommun, Laiken Johnson, Carly Fuhrman, Brooklyn Brunsting.

KISS THE CRITTERS

Submitted by Cherokee

Cherokee FFA Members brought some of their animals to school on Feb. 24 as part of National FFA Week (Feb. 20-24).

Teachers were offered the chance to experience "Kiss the Critters" as one of the events planned for the week. The Cherokee Chapter also hosted a coffee at "Mud on

Main" on Tuesday, Feb. 21, for the public. Members visited with the public and explained what their chapter has accomplished in the past year.

LOESS HILLS AITC BEGINS A FIFTH YEAR OF PROGRAMMING

Submitted by Carroll, Crawford

TEACHERS CONTINUE TO INTEGRATE LESSONS ABOUT AGRICULTURE INTO THEIR CLASSROOMS.

Demand for quality agriculture education programs in schools is on the rise. Teachers continue to request monthly programming and students are benefiting. Loess Hills Agriculture in the Classroom (LHAITC) Coordinator, Melanie Bruck has already conducted lessons with nearly 5,700 teachers and has spent the past five years making over 32,000 student impressions.

Five county Farm Bureaus: Carroll, Crawford, Harrison, Shelby, and West Pottawattamie are responsible for managing LHAITC. Board members include two members from each of the five counties.

HTS Ag owner and LHAITC Board President Adam Gittins says, "My plate was pretty full before being asked to oversee



Loess Hills AITC presents "Many Hats of an Iowa Farmer" at the 2023 Career Fair Hosted by Ignite Pathways in Woodbine, Iowa.

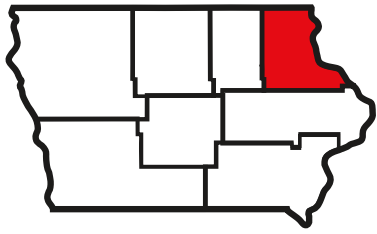
this nonprofit organization, but when something is this important you make room."

Education Program Coordinator, Melanie Bruck will continue to work with the five county Farm Bureau members, teachers, and agribusiness owners making sure students know how important agriculture is to everyone.

"I see it every day. In the eyes

of the children I teach, and in the interest of the teachers that I work with. They're excited to learn about agriculture, and we are making a difference."

If you would like to join the Farm Bureau in their efforts to educate students about agriculture, contributions can be made online at www.loesshill-saitc.org.



North East Iowa

AREA NEWS

WINNESHIEK . ALLAMAKEE . FAYETTE . CLAYTON . BUCHANAN . DELAWARE . DUBUQUE



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Students learned about the life cycle of a honeybee.

AITC COORDINATOR VISITS WEST ELEMENTARY

Submitted by Allamakee

Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Elizabeth Blake visited the Waukon West Elementary kindergarten and transitional kindergarten classes on Friday, Feb. 17. She taught the students about the Life Cycle of a honeybee and how bees are essential for a self-sustaining environment growth and pros-

perity. Kindergarten students were able to make a life cycle spinning wheel to show each stage of the honeybee's life from an egg to an adult. The TK students made a life cycle bee book where they could flip open the pages to see the different stages and trace the letters of the word to practice their writing skills.

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CENTURY AND HERITAGE FARM PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Submitted by Buchanan, Delaware

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig encourages eligible Iowa farm owners to apply for the 2023 Century and Heritage Farm Program through June 1. The program was created by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation to recognize families who have owned their farms for 100 years and 150 years respectively.

To apply, download the application on the Department's website at iowaagriculture.gov/century-and-heritage-farm-program or contact Kelley Reece, coordinator of the Century and Heritage Farm Program, at 515-281-3645 or Kelley.reece@iowaagriculture.gov.

More than 20,000 Century Farms and 1,600 Heritage Farms have been recognized since the program began. The ceremonies recognizing the 2023 Century and Heritage Farm families will be held at the Iowa State Fair on Aug. 17.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH OFFERS TEACHER LICENSE RENEWAL COURSE 'SMALL CHANGE' ON MARCH 29

Submitted by Fayette

According to a 2015 study by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, teaching financial skills to youth before they enter college, or the workforce is crucial to helping them grow into adults who can achieve financial security and success. Iowa is one of 20 states where K-12 educators teach financial literacy skills courses required for high school graduation, said Phyllis Zalenski, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

That is why Zalenski encourages K-12 teachers to register for the upcoming "Small Change: Building Financial Security for Educators" online course starting Wednesday, March 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. Register online for March's Small Change course.

The course content is em-

bedded in the financial literacy standards of the Iowa Core 21st Century Skills and Social Studies, and connects participants with curricula, resources and school-based programs for elementary, middle and high school levels. Educators can earn one Iowa License renewal credit.

"Financial literacy skills are important at any age, but the younger you develop the skills, the more time you have to reap the benefits. When we teach youth personal financial skills, they gain a solid foundation for a lifetime of financial independence and decision making," said human sciences specialist Carol Ehlers.

Both Ehlers and Zalenski specialize in family wellbeing.

The online course supports the effort to increase Iowa students' financial literacy, as the

state added a personal finance course as a graduation requirement beginning with the graduating class of 2021.

The educator course focuses on making more informed decisions about financial management and building greater confidence to make small changes that can make a difference. Thanks to a grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, Iowa teachers partner with ISU Extension and Outreach to complete the course. Participants explore lessons that are timely and relevant to themselves personally and to their classroom.

LESSON TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Finance Fundamentals—getting organized, smart borrowing, estate planning.
- Insurance—life, health, disability, long-term care, auto, home, liability coverage.

- Investing—risk tolerance, investment choices, funding long-term goals.

- Retirement—preparing for retirement, building a nest egg, Social Security, IPERS.

THE COURSE FORMAT REQUIRES PARTICIPANTS TO:

- Participate in a live, virtual two-hour introductory workshop on March 29 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- Complete at least four of 12 gamified online lessons covering financial topics.
- Complete assignments to promote financial literacy and connect with resources.

"Educators explore research-based resources that look at strategies for handling and managing debt, how to use various financial services, how to create a personal insurance plan, ways to examine how choice of career and life-

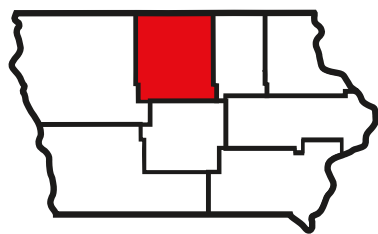
style will affect personal financial planning, and much more," Ehlers said.

Small Change: Building Financial Security for Educators features vetted curriculum and resources. It is offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach with seed funding support from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation.

The course fee is \$25 to Iowa State Education Association members and non-members. Those who do not need license renewal credit may register and audit the course for a \$10 fee.

Register online by March 24 at <https://cvent.me/Mzo1Do> or search for Small Change at <https://www.isea.org/course-catalog>. Space is limited.

For more information, visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/small-change>.



North Central Iowa

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PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS AND INFORMATION

Submitted by Franklin

Have you found it difficult to purchase a brand-name and generic prescription, because it was not covered by your insurance? Perhaps you have a Medicare or high-deductible health plan. As a Farm Bureau member, you can search for the lowest price at a local participating pharmacy by visiting www.WellRXPremier.com/ifbf or by calling ScriptSave WellRx Premier at 1-800-407-8156 and provide Iowa Farm Bureau's group #396A.

If you have pets, you can use this benefit to reduce out-of-pocket costs on human-equivalent pet medication.

The new ScriptSave WellRx-Premier app allows you to set pill and refill reminders to keep you on track with your medications and to record medication notes and mood symptoms. The app has expanded health information including drug interactions, pill images and videos by physicians to help you better understand your medications.

ISU CONSERVATION STATIONS AVAILABLE FOR REQUEST

Submitted by Wright

The Conservation Station educational trailers provided by Iowa State University (ISU) are now available for request. Organizations looking to schedule a visit for their events can make requests online at [https://www.wa-](https://www.wa-terrocks.org/request-the-conservation-station)

[terrocks.org/request-the-conservation-station](https://www.wa-terrocks.org/request-the-conservation-station).

The Conservation Station fleet is comprised of four customized trailers equipped with hands-on demonstrations and activities that delve into the impacts of land management choices, both

urban and agricultural, on water quality and the connections between our state's water, soil and wildlife.

In addition to the core science-based resources, each trailer has a different theme to provide a deeper dive into areas

of interest. Conservation Station "On the Edge" has working bioreactor and saturated buffer demonstrations, and Conservation Station "Marsh Madness" includes working models of different wetlands to show how water moves over and through

these landscapes.

Each single-day visit from a Conservation Station trailer includes staff made up of ISU faculty, staff or student interns who are eager to engage and share what they know about Iowa and its natural resources.



A Fundraising Event For

THE NORTH IOWA FAIR



The Palomino Band

SCHEDULE

- 5:00 PM - Cowboy Cocktail Hour
- 6:00 PM - Dinner Buffet
- 6:45 PM - Silent Auction Closes
- 7:00 PM - Live Auction
- 7:30 PM - The Palomino Band
- 8:30 PM - Best Dressed Announcement
- 9:30 PM - Event Ends

Help bring the Fair back to a standard of excellence we can all be proud of and enjoy!



Cowboy Cocktail Hour



Dinner Buffet



Silent & Live Auctions



Best Dressed Contest

Opening Night:

NORTH IOWA LIVESTOCK EXTRAVAGANZA
March 18-19, 2023



Location:
Olson Building
North Iowa Events Center
Mason City, Iowa
(641)423-3811

WWW.NORTHIOWACOWBOYBALL.COM

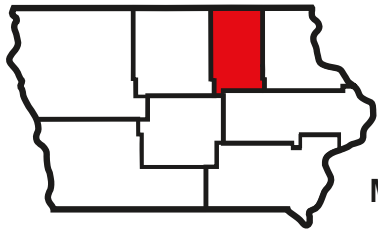
NORTH IOWA EVENTS CENTER HOSTS THE COWBOY BALL

Submitted by Cerro Gordo

On Friday, March 17, at the Olson Building, the North Iowa Fair will be hosting a fundraising event. The Cowboy Ball will start at 5 p.m. with Cowboy

Cocktail Hour and includes a dinner buffet starting at 6 p.m. Silent and live auctions and best dressed contest will also be going on during the event! At 7:30 p.m. the Palomino band

will entertain attendees with their country and bluegrass tunes! For more information and tickets visit www.northiowacowboyball.com or call 641-423-3811.



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NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL AITC



The second-grade students at Notre Dame Catholic School in Cresco learned about pollinators when the Howard County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator visited last week. The students identified different pollinators and learned how they are beneficial to the environment. The students made seed bombs to take home and plant to attract pollinators at their house. **Submitted by Howard**



MEMBER BENEFIT: WYNDHAM HOTELS SAVINGS

Submitted by Chickasaw

Did you know AmeriInn is one of many properties in the Wyndham Hotel group? So are Super 8, Days Inn, Baymont, Microtel, Ramada and more! When you're ready to travel, Wyndham Hotels and Resorts are ready to make it a safe and enjoyable stay. Their properties follow deep cleaning, disinfecting, hygiene and social distancing protocols.

Plus, with the Iowa Farm Bureau group code, you save up to 20 percent on your stay. Book your room by calling 877-670-7088 or online at www.WyndhamHotels.com/hotel-deals/farm-bureau.

The required Iowa group code can be found at www.IowaFarmBureau.com/member-benefits or by calling 866-598-3693.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM – POPCORN

Submitted by Mitchell

By AITC Coordinator Jenny Sullivan

Popcorn was the topic for the first graders in the county for the farm a month program during February. Students learned that popcorn is grown in fields just like field corn. Popcorn ears are usually smaller than ears of field corn and there are different varieties of popcorn too. Students saw ears of white popcorn, yellow popcorn, and strawberry popcorn.

I read a new book "Let's Pop, Pop, Popcorn" to the students. This book does a good job showing how popcorn is planted, harvested, and all the processing steps it goes through before it becomes a delicious snack that so many people like to eat. Students learned that the moisture in popcorn needs to be just right otherwise it won't pop. I popped an ear of popcorn for each class. Any kernels that didn't pop are called "old maids". Students tast-



Area students sort their popcorn by flavor and then track on a bar graph which flavor their classmates like best. Each class had a different favorite, but always cheese or caramel.

ed plain, cheese, and caramel popcorn and voted to see what the class liked the best. With that information we made a bar graph.

From class to class it went back and forth between cheese and caramel for each class's favorite flavor.



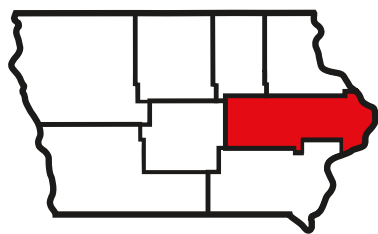
MEMBERS SAVE ON CASE IH TRACTORS AND HAY EQUIPMENT

Submitted by Floyd

Farm Bureau members can save \$500 or \$200 on select CASE IH tractors and hay equipment. Members can save \$500 on the Vestrum series tractors, Case IH's newest series in their livestock equipment lineup. The Vestrum models combine the power of a high-horsepower tractor with maneuverability and comfort in a compact design. Case IH also offers \$500 savings on its Maxxum series tractors and its large

square balers and self-propelled windrowers. Members can save \$200 on Farmall compact and utility tractors as well as 100A, N and V series tractors, small square balers and more. Visit your dealer for information on eligible models.

You must provide a Farm Bureau member verification certificate to your Case IH dealer at the time of purchase to qualify. Download your certificate at www.iowafarmbureau.com/member-benefits or call 866-598-3693 for assistance.



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FREE EXCHANGE ADS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Submitted by Jackson

Got lawn, farm or snow equipment to sell? Let Iowa Farm Bureau members know! Online posts can include photos and an email address – making member exchange ads even more valuable. Ads printed in the Spokesman will not include photos.

Contact your county office by calling the Maquoketa office at 563-652-2456 or emailing Jackson.county@ifbf.org. Ads must be submitted by 2 p.m. on Tuesdays to be placed in the next week's Spokesman.

Or you can submit your exchange ad online at www.IowaFarmBureau.com/ExchangeAds. To view Member

Exchange Ads online, scroll to the bottom of the Iowa Farm Bureau home page. You can filter ads by county, category or search criteria.

You need a personal login to place an ad or view state-wide exchange ads. To create your login, go to www.IowaFarmBureau.com/register/ member, enter your membership number, zip code and last name or business name. (Your membership number is the first nine digits printed above your address on the Spokesman.) Enter your preferred email address and create a password. Check the 'Remember Me' box if you'd like to automatically log in when on this website.



Cedar County students enjoyed the Ag in the Classroom visits and projects in February.



AITC VISITS CLASSROOMS IN FEBRUARY

Submitted by Cedar

Teresa Bohlman with Cedar County Extension and Outreach, partnering with Cedar County Farm Bureau spent time in Cedar County classrooms for Ag in the

Classroom visits in February.

"A plant's purpose" was a lesson for 62 West Branch third graders; "Tales of a Dairy-Godmother" was a lesson with frozen yogurt with Bennett fourth grade stu-

dents. "Pizza - where did my topping come from?" was the topic with Tipton third grade and North Cedar, Mechanicsville third grade students. "Chick it out" was a lesson with 42 Tipton Clover kids.

SPRINGTIME ON THE FARM

Submitted by Linn

Spring is finally here, which means another busy season for Iowa farmers. For many livestock farmers, this time of year means new life, from calves to lambs to piglets to chicks. While the livestock may vary, the necessities don't. During this season, farmers have to pay close attention to the expecting livestock to ensure both the mothers and babies are safe and healthy after birth. Vaccines, tagging, and nursing are just some of the basic tasks farmers have to watch over and keep up with. Iowa's winter weather makes this extra difficult.

As the frigid snow begins to melt in the warmer weather, mud becomes more persistent in livestock lots. The inability to stay dry and cooler nights can make mud dangerous for newborn livestock. Being



exposed to muddy environments for long periods can also allow pathogens to infect and sicken livestock.

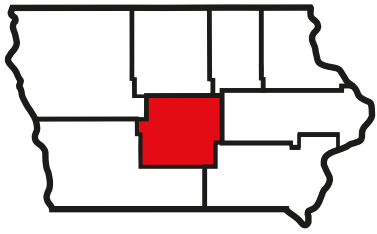
While it may seem challenging, it's important for farmers and agriculture workers to get ahead of these problems. One option would be an attempt at mud control by putting down rock or gravel. This could allow better drainage. Some farmers also suggest applying lime to feedlots or holding areas. This can help dry up and compact the

soil. After the applied lime has allowed a few hours to dry, it's best to be worked into the ground and compacted.

If gravel or lime isn't an option, many farmers work to combat mud by using bedding like corn stalks, straw, or sawdust. Corn stalks are recommended as it's often readily available and stays drier on the surface. It's important to maintain the bedding and apply new bedding often to avoid the spread of pathogens and to keep the surface dry.

Another great option would be to move livestock often! Dispersing the livestock helps minimize mud impacts. It can also help limit disease outbreaks.

This spring, contact your veterinarian to help solidify your health and nutrition programs for your livestock.



Central Iowa

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Taco Soup

Pat McElhaney, Black Hawk County

Ingredients:

1 large can diced tomatoes	beans (drained)	use Hidden Valley Fiesta Ranch Dip)
2 cans black beans (drained)	1 can of pinto beans (drained)	1 pkg. taco seasoning
1 can red beans (drained)	1 can corn (drained)	1 lb. ground beef (browned and drained)
1 can dark kidney	1 can Rotelle tomatoes	
	1 pkg. dry Hidden Valley Ranch dip (l	

Instructions:

Put all ingredients in the crockpot; add ground beef, stir and set on low setting for 6-8 hours or 4 hours on high. Serve with shredded cheese, a teaspoon of sour cream and Tostitos Scoops.

Cappuccino Punch

Marjorie Brunsting, Sioux County

Ingredients:

1/2 c. sugar	1 c. boiling water	8 c. milk (1/2 gallon)
1/4 c. instant coffee granules	Mix and chill	4 c. vanilla ice cream
	Add:	4 c. chocolate ice cream

Instructions:

Stir in the ice cream and place in punch bowl. Serve and enjoy.

Please email your favorite recipes to chopton@ifbf.org or mail to: Communications Division, Spokesman Recipes, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266.

WELCOME HOME, DAISY!



UPDATE! Daisy, the "valentine visitor" to Marshall County Farm Bureau last month, has been adopted. Animal Rescue League of Marshalltown delivered 20 Valentine's greetings that were accompanied by adoptable pets. There are approximately 35 dogs and 90 cats/kittens at the rescue league on any given day, waiting for their forever home. Congratulations to Daisy's new pet parents. **Submitted by Marshall**

CLOVER KIDS MAKE SEED MOSAICS WITH AG IN THE CLASSROOM



Submitted by Warren

The Carlisle Clover Kids Club had Warren County Farm Bureau Ag In The Classroom Coordinator Keisha Thompson speak at their monthly meeting on March 6!

Their club leader, Katie Walker, read a book called "Miss Maple's Seeds". Keisha taught an agricultural lesson on seeds and introduced them to making mosaic art with seeds!

If you would be interested in speaking with the Warren County Clover Kids or 4-H Club, please reach out to warren4h@iastate.edu.

Thanks to Warren County Extension and 4-H for inviting AITC to present, Reynolds Ag Solutions for donating the rye grass seed, and 1 OAK for donating the birch wood!

These seed mosaics will be something the Clover Kids can enter as a project at the Warren County Fair as well!



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LOCAL TEACHERS RECEIVE GRANTS TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE LEARNING

Submitted by Madison

The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation (IALF) has awarded 155 grants to schools throughout Iowa to support the integration of agriculture into classroom instruction or after school programs with an academic focus.

Teachers from Earlham, Interstate 35 and Winterset Community Schools all received up to \$250 to integrate agriculture into their science or language arts lessons and conduct Agriculture in the Classroom type projects.

The Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher Supplement Grants are designed to help teachers initiate new projects or expand existing projects that promote agriculture literacy in

students. Grants can be used to fund innovative lessons, activities, classroom resources, guest speakers, outreach programs, fieldtrips, and other projects.

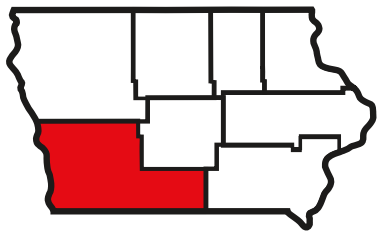
"We had a lot of great applications that focus on integrating agriculture into science, social studies, and language arts curriculums," said IALF executive director Kelly Foss. "We hope these grants will allow teachers to make real world connections to what they are already teaching."

The school projects that were funded included, Chicken Hatching project in three of the classrooms and a Cultivating Agricultural Connections in the other two.

The grants are a special project of IALF and were made possible through support from the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF).

"The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation is proud to provide financial assistance to support Iowa teachers in their classrooms," said Ronnette Vondrak, IFBF community resources manager. "Agricultural literacy is critical in expanding a deeper understanding of the value and impact agriculture has across our state and the world."

The projects will be completed before the end of the school year with final reports due by June 9, 2023. For more information visit www.iowaagliteracy.org.



South West Iowa

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MEMBER BENEFIT: ACTIVE&FIT DIRECT

Submitted by Audubon

Are you ready to begin work on that New Year's resolution of eating healthy and exercising more? Then adding a gym/fitness membership thru Active&Fit Direct may be a perfect way to get started. Enroll before March 31 and the \$25 enrollment fee for a standard gym membership is waived.

Join a participating gym for \$25/month with no long-term contracts or find other fitness options to fit your lifestyle. For example, premium exercise studio options are available at 20% - 70% discounted rates or choose to workout anywhere with

a library of on-demand workouts. Enrolled members in the Active&Fit Direct program can also sign up for personalized coaching over the phone to help achieve health goals in areas such as fitness, nutrition, stress, and sleep.

Members must be 18 years of age or older to enroll. The first invoice for a standard gym membership is \$75 plus taxes to cover a \$25 enrollment fee plus \$50 for the first two months of membership. Fees for premium exercise studios are typically higher and will vary. After the first two months, participation and payments are month-to-month.



Students used worksheets to write sentences describing chicks,

LITERACY NIGHT AN EGG-CITING ADVENTURE

Submitted by Harrison

Earlier this month, Tri-Center hosted a literacy night to celebrate Read Across America. The theme was Dr. Seuss. Melanie Bruck, Loess Hills Ag in the Classroom Program Coordinator, attended to promote "Agriculture and Read-

ing is an Egg-citing Adventure." She brought along the Dr. Seuss book "Who Hatches the Egg?" which taught participants about the many birds, insects, and even reptiles who lay eggs. After five to six months, a hen is old enough to lay eggs of her own. Students

watched a video of an 8-day chick embryo, counted plastic eggs with different developmental stages, used worksheets to write sentences describing chicks, had fun with chicken leg math, and got to take home a candy treat inside a plastic egg.

LOESS HILLS AITC BEGINS A FIFTH YEAR OF PROGRAMMING

Submitted by Harrison, West Pottawattamie

TEACHERS CONTINUE TO INTEGRATE LESSONS ABOUT AGRICULTURE INTO THEIR CLASSROOMS.

Demand for quality agriculture education programs in schools is on the rise. Teachers continue to request monthly programming and students are benefiting. Loess Hills Agriculture in the Classroom (LHAITC) Coordinator, Melanie Bruck has already conducted lessons with nearly 5,700 teachers and has spent the past five years making over 32,000 student impressions.

Five county Farm Bureaus: Carroll, Crawford, Harrison, Shelby, and West Pottawattamie are responsible for managing LHAITC. Board members include two members from each of the five counties. HTS Ag owner and LHAITC Board President Adam Gittins says, "My plate was pretty full before being asked to oversee this nonprofit or-



Loess Hills AITC presents "Many Hats of an Iowa Farmer" at the 2023 Career Fair Hosted by Ignite Pathways in Woodbine, Iowa.

ganization, but when something is this important you make room."

Education Program Coordinator, Melanie Bruck will continue to work with the five county Farm Bureau members, teachers, and agribusiness owners making sure students know how important agriculture is to everyone.

"I see it every day. In the eyes of

the children I teach, and in the interest of the teachers that I work with. They're excited to learn about agriculture, and we are making a difference."

If you would like to join the Farm Bureau in their efforts to educate students about agriculture, contributions can be made online at www.loesshillsaitc.org.