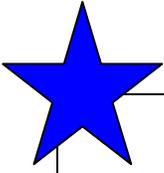


Illinois Ag In the Classroom's

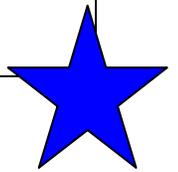


Activities for Celebrating National Agriculture Week



Every March FFA and 4-H members from all parts of the United States organize events and activities to build awareness of Agriculture. The following booklet provides activities from Illinois Ag in the Classroom that can assist in planning these events. These activities are to serve as a springboard for providing important information about agriculture to young students. Take the information provided here and on our website and customize your own presentation. The activities that are provided in this booklet are designed to be shared with kindergarten through fifth grade students.

Activities in this booklet are briefly described and teachers are highly encouraged to visit the IAITC website, <http://www.agintheclassroom.org>. Our website provides more detailed descriptions of the activities listed in this booklet. Also included on our website are many of the templates for art, so there is no recreating if you don't want to. Lastly, in an era where every activity in the classroom needs to be aligned to the State Learning Standards, you will find that all the work has been done for you; each activity in this booklet is aligned to the standards and the assessment frameworks.



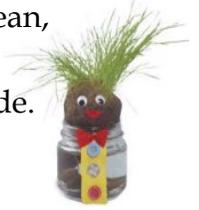
Animal Activities

1. **Moo Mask:** Create a cow mask out of a paper plate. Provide different colored plates for the different breeds and let students pick what type of cow they want to be. A fun way to teach the different breeds of cattle or the difference between dairy and beef cattle.
2. **Beautiful Bovine:** This activity actually dresses up a student like a cow using everyday items. Use this activity to engage students in learning all the important features of the cow. Pair this activity up with the **Beef Ag Mag**.
3. **Bag Butterflies:** Create a colorful take home project with some tissue paper and Ziploc bags. Use this project as a way of discussing the importance of pollinators such as the butterfly and the bee.
4. **Paper Plate Turkey:** A great activity for presentations around Thanksgiving. All that is needed is a paper plate and construction paper. Each piece of construction paper will be a tail feather and includes interesting turkey facts.
5. **Egg Structure:** A great project that uses a paper plate, construction paper and a little glue that will help students learn about all the internal structures of an egg. This activity goes great with the **Poultry Ag Mag**.
6. **Beef, Swine or Horse Feed Sack:** This is a fun activity that allows students to learn about the importance of the feed that goes into taking care of a farm animal. Pick between the beef cow, swine or horse feed sack activity or create your own animal feed. A good activity to pair up with Ag Mags!
7. **Burger Snacks:** Create a snack that students will enjoy making and eating while learning about the different agricultural products that help build a hamburger.
8. **Paper Plate Pig:** Create a pig with a few simple supplies that students can take home. Pair this up with the **Pork Ag Mag** for a short informational presentation.
9. **Beefo Bingo:** A bingo game to help learn about cattle and their by-products.
10. **Horse Charm:** While discussing the horse and reading the **Horse Ag Mag**, have students make a charm with a few pony beads and lanyard string. If you really want to get creative, you could provide different pony beads for the different coat colors and each student could make their favorite. Look for this activity in the *Horse Lesson Booklet*.
11. **DNA Bracelet:** Lets students learn about DNA visually as well as hands on. A few pony beads and pipe cleaners is all you need to form a double helix. Use this activity with the **Biotechnology Ag Mag**.
12. **Butter Making:** Follow the simple directions in the Dairy mAGic Kit to make your own butter!
13. **Horse Head:** Use a brown paper bag to create a horse head. Before students decorate it, discuss the different facial marking used to identify horses and then let them decorate their bag with the marking of their choice. You will find this activity in the *Horse Lesson booklet*.



Plant Activities

1. **Beanie Baby:** One of AITC's most popular activities. A little soil moist, a soybean, jewelry bag and string is all you need to let students study legume growth.
2. **Soil Sam:** This activity is similar to a Chia Pet, but better because it is homemade. Great way to include the scientific method for an extended project.
3. **Garden in a Glove:** Take a clear plastic glove, five cotton balls and the seeds of your choice to create a classroom garden. Use this activity to talk about plant growth or maybe even an introduction to gardening.
4. **Tops and Bottoms:** Students color the worksheet provided by IAITC helping them learn from what areas of the plant certain agricultural crops develop. Pair this activity up with the reading of Janet Stevens' book *Tops & Bottoms*.
5. **Pumpkin Charm:** This activity creates a necklace charm students can wear that incorporates all the aspects needed to grow a healthy pumpkin.
6. **Apple or Pumpkin Chain:** An easy to make project that allows students to learn the stages of apple or pumpkin growth. All pieces of the chain are downloadable from the IAITC website, so no need to reinvent the wheel!
7. **Harvest Seasons Mobile:** This mobile uses pre-made cut-outs from our website and will help you show your audience the different crops harvested in Illinois.
8. **Berry Painting:** Want to catch the students' attention and get them really involved in the project, then make this paint from fruit. Use the **Horticulture Ag Mag** to complement this activity.
9. **What is Inside My Pumpkin?** Learn the insides of the pumpkin and create a little booklet too.
10. **Bean Book:** Create a booklet with students and discuss the different parts of the bean as it grows.
11. **Three Sisters Tambourine:** Teach students about the Native American story about the three crops corn, beans and squash. Use corn, bean and pumpkin seeds to complete a functional tambourine.
12. **Corn Plastic:** Make each student their own corn plastic to take home simple by using our recipe, some corn oil, corn starch, food coloring and a microwave.
13. **Corn Chain:** Students will follow the corn kernel from planting to market. Use the *Exploring Corn Booklet* from IAITC to expand this project.
14. **Super Soybean Timeline:** Get students up, moving around and thinking all in one. Great fall activity that works well with Raymond Bial's book *The Super Soybean* and the IAITC *Super Soybean booklet*.
15. **Turning Tomato:** Did you know the tomato is the world's most popular fruit? Create this project and let students learn more about an Illinois specialty crop.



Nutrition

1. **Farm Source of a Cheeseburger:** A presentation put together to explain all the farm products that go into producing a cheeseburger. Booklets are available through IAITC website and a sewing pattern for a giant cheeseburger is available through our office for \$2.50.
2. **Farm Source of a Pizza:** Similar to the hamburger activity but uses pizza. Both presentation guides include word searches and puzzles.
3. **What is in My Candy Bar?** Students investigate what products go into making their candy bar and how to read a nutritional label. This activity is found in our “*Kids, Crops & Critters*” teacher resource guide.
4. **Food Cube:** With this activity students make a cube that contains the new food pyramid information. Talk to students about their daily nutrition needs and play a game with the food cube. Look for this activity in the *Nutrition Lesson Packet*.
5. **High Five for Healthy Eating:** Students trace their hand and will label as you go through your nutrition presentation. Each finger will be labeled with the correct portion size, so students have a visualization of how foods should relate. This activity is found in the **Nutrition Ag Mag**.
6. **Pizza Graphing:** This activity will get students up and participating in the presentation. Paired along with the Pizza Ag Mag students will learn about pizza and graphing.
7. **Pizza Plate:** Teach students about what types of farms are needed to produce the products that go into their favorite pizza. Students end with a plate that looks like pizza and the knowledge of where all the ingredients come from.
8. **Pumpkin Pie in a Bag:** Illinois is the Pumpkin Capital of the World! Why not talk about pumpkin production, the uses of pumpkins and how they grow. Finish the presentation with this simple and yummy pumpkin pie recipe.
9. **Commodity Plate:** An activity for students to learn about wheat. Students draw their best wheat plant in the center of an oval plate, then glue or draw products made from wheat on the side of the plate.
10. **Edible Soil Profile:** Students learn the different soil horizons and their textures by creating this treat they will love to eat.
11. **Bread Comes Alive:** Talk about the ingredients and production involved in making bread, read the book Bread Comes to Life by George Levenson.
12. **A Corny Skit:** You’ll find this fun activity in the corn booklet. Have your older students prepare a lesson about corn and its nutritional importance. While they are teaching the lesson, for a fun activity have them direct the young students in “A Corny Skit!”
13. **Make Your Own Tootsie Roll:** Use our recipe and make a tootsie roll. They are made primarily from corn syrup and only in Chicago, Illinois.



Environmental Activities

1. **Slice of Soil Demonstration**: Slice an apple with our instructions to show how little fertile soil we actually still have. Use this activity with the Soil Ag Mag.
2. **Water Cycle Bracelet or Circle of Earth Bracelet**: With the use of pipe cleaners and pony beads students create a bracelet they can wear and remind them of all the different stages of water in the water cycle or how all elements interact around Earth.
3. **Drop of Water Demonstration**: Similar to the slice of soil, but demonstrates with a one gallon jug of water our actual useable water on earth.
4. **Corn Packing Peanuts**: There are several fun activities that you can do with packing peanuts that actually biodegrade. Demonstrate how fast one of our corn packing peanuts breaks down in water compared to the petroleum peanuts that don't.
5. **Make a Tree Vest**: Use the grocery paper shopping bags and vest for young students to wear.
6. **Make a Tree**: A fast art project to make out of a brown paper lunch sack when teaching units involving any kind of tree.
7. **Make a Corn Ear**: Have students decorate their own ear of corn made from a brown paper lunch sack and their own thumb prints!
8. **Sand, Silt & Clay Comparison**: Students color construction paper, paper plates to resemble a basketball, a baseball and a marble to learn the size of the soil particles.
9. **Soil Shake**: A cool way to show students that all soil is made up of more than just one type of soil. A glass jar, some soil and dish washing detergent is all you need.
10. **Water Shed and Enviro-snacks**: Water is important to every living thing, with this activity students learn about our water sheds and make envirosnacks! Pair these up with the Water Ag Mag and a water cycle bracelet.
11. **Coffee Filter Earth**: This activity can be found in the Soils mAGic Kit. With a few simple supplies students can study how soil is formed and how plants utilize it.
12. **Hungry Planet Activity**: We like this activity to talk about international agriculture. Students investigate pictures from the book Hungry Planet by Peter Menzel. Students can see actual photos of the products people grow, raise and eat in other countries.
13. **Bio-Bag- how much trash do I throw away?** Discuss with students the difference between biodegradable and non-biodegradable. Have them wear a plastic sack tied to their waist and collect all their trash for one day.



Careers and Other Favorites

1. **Many Hats of a Farmer (Dr. Seuss pg 142):** Have students investigate all the different responsibilities that a farmer has to control with this simple activity. This activity will let them know the thought and effort that goes into producing products they consume.
2. **Farm Charm:** A simple necklace made from a jewelry bag that will remind students the importance of farms in our lives and the need to protect our environment.
3. **Thinking Like a Farmer:** You'll find this activity in our *Farmer's Almanac lesson booklet*. This game has students make decisions that will affect the outcome of their farm. This activity shows students how much information a farmer must know.
4. **Career Bingo:** Have students learn about different careers in agriculture by playing a fun game of bingo!
5. **Change for a Dollar:** U.S. notes have a direct connection to Agriculture. These notes are made out of a cotton and linen blend. Use our *Change for a Dollar booklet* to teach agriculture, currency and history.
6. **It's a Moo-stery:** An activity from the *Ag=E⁵ booklet* that allows students to investigate artifacts from the dairy industry and encourages them to work on their writing skills.
7. **Agri-Bingo:** Play bingo and teach young students terms involved in the agriculture world.
8. **Three, Three, Three Little Pigs:** A fun pork based lesson that will help students connect the fact that the gestation period for a pig is "three months, three weeks, and three days" to the passage of time in their own lives.
9. **Snow Flakes:** A great activity for winter and to accompany the Water Ag Mag. Students can make their own classroom decorations.
10. **Soybean Slap:** English as a second language game that helps students learn the global impact American farming has. Students will learn all the vocabulary terms in English and Spanish associated with growing a soybean.
11. **Cotton Ginning:** Take a step back in time and teach students about early agriculture and how far we have come with the help of innovation and technology.
12. **Illinois Charm:** A simple necklace made from a jewelry bag that will help students learn and review Illinois facts, like the state snack and the state bird.
13. **Football Charm:** Same concept as the Illinois charm but shows students how agriculture plays a part in football.
14. **Stackable Ice Cream Cone:** Students learn about dairy cattle and dairy products when creating this giant ice cream cone.

