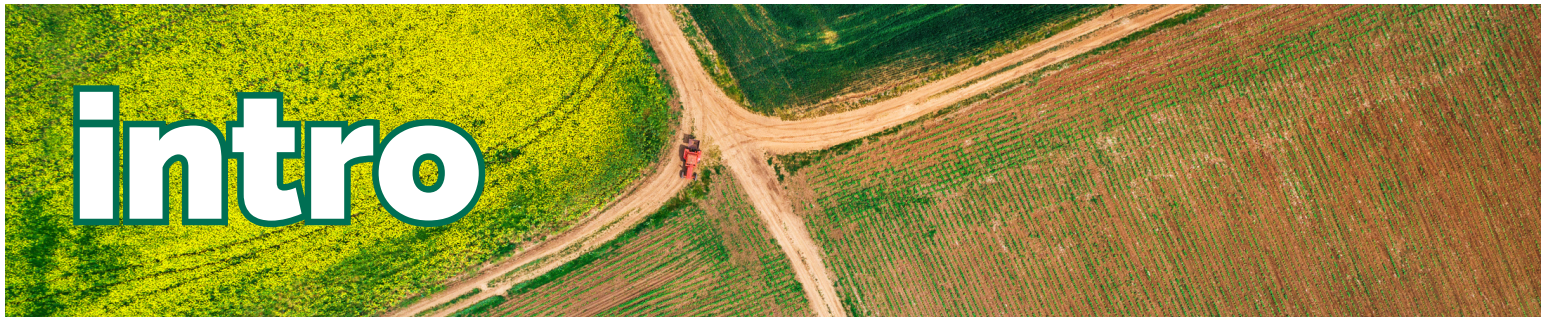




Yearly Calendar of National Ag Days

with corresponding lessons,
book recommendations, and
recipes!





About us

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom helps support teachers in classrooms all around the state. It is our goal to help integrate agriculture lessons into everyday learning. Through collaborative lessons we meet educational standards with lessons so there is a seamless transition in the classroom.

National Calendar

Our office has composed a list of "National Days" relating to agriculture. Within this handout is a condensed list with lessons ranging Kindergarten through 8th grade. Lesson plans, book recommendations and other materials are all linked and included.

Why is it important?

Agriculture is in our everyday lives: from the food we eat, the clothing we wear, and the ground we walk on. Getting students excited to learn about agriculture is what we do best. It is important that they know just how connected we are with agriculture and how important it is in our lives.

Layout of the booklet:

Header: here is the date and the national day celebrated each year.

Lessons: each of the [blue colored texts](#) is linked to the prospective lesson and/or activity that goes with each day.



Date | National Day

K-3rd Lesson Plan:

Lesson: abc

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: xyz

Lesson: xyz

Book Recommendations:

book 1

book 2



January

National Bio-Tech Month



Bio-Tech

4th-8th Lesson Ideas:

Lesson:

- Precision Agriculture
- How Much does that Tractor Really Cost?
- Corn Plant Genetics
- Timeline of Farm Machinery and Technology

Book Recommendation:

- "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" by Peggy Thomas



Jan. 6 | National Bean Day

K-3rd Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [Beanie Baby](#)

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Soybeans](#)

Lesson: [Percent Germination for a Soybean Sample](#)

Reader: [Soybean Reader](#)

Extra: [Ag-Venture with Soybeans](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "The Cool Bean" by Jory John and Pete Oswald



Jan. 11 | National Milk Day

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Dairy](#)

Lesson: [What Kind of Milk Do You Drink?](#)

Reader: [Dairy Reader](#)

Extra: [Ag-Venture with Dairy WS](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" by Viola Butler



Jan. 29 | National Corn Chip Day

4th-8th lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Corn](#)

Lesson: [Corn & Soybean Processing and Products](#)

Reader: [Corn Reader](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "Nacho's Nachos: The Story Behind the World's Favorite Snack" by Sandra Nickel

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

Jan. 5 - National Whipped Cream Day || Jan. 15 - National Bagel Day
Jan. 20 - National Cheese Lovers Day || Jan. 24 National Peanut Butter Day

February

National Snack Food Month



Snack Food

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Corn

Lesson: Popcorn Science

Reader: Popcorn Reader

Recipe:

Microwave Caramel Popcorn

Book Recommendation:

- "Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack" by Cris Peterson



Feb. 11 | National Inventors Day

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Lesson:

- Inventors John Deere and Cyrus McCormick
- Lincoln's Patent

Book Recommendations:

- "John Deere, That's Who!" by Tracy Nelson Maurer
- "George Washington Carver: Ingenious Inventor (Graphic Biographies)" by Nathan Olson
- "Clang!" by Darcy Pattison



Feb. 17 | National Cabbage Day

K-5th Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: Farmers Markets

Lesson: Design a Farmers Market Booth

3rd-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Farmers Markets

Lesson: Ins and Outs

Extra: Ag-Venture with Farmers Markets



Feb. 27 | National Strawberry Day

K-5th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Specialty Crops

Lesson: Specialty Crop Self Portrait

Recipe:

Spinach & Strawberry Salad

Book Recommendation:

- "I LOVE Strawberries!" by Shannon Anderson

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

Feb. 6 - National Frozen Yogurt Day || Feb. 15 - National Gumdrop Day

Feb. 23 - National Banana Bread Day || Feb. 28 National Floral Design Day



March

National Nutrition Month



Nutrition

3rd-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Nutrition

Lesson: Colors on Your Plate

Reader: Nutrition Reader

Extra: Ag-Venture with Nutrition

Book Recommendations:

- "Hungry Planet: What the World Eats" by Peter Menzel & Faith D'Aluisio
- "Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table" by Jacqueline Briggs Martin



March 1 | National Pig Day

K-2nd Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: Pork

Lesson: Paper Bag Pig Puppet

3rd-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Pork

Lesson: Pig Placemat

Reader: Pork Reader

Extra: Ag-Venture with Pork

Book Recommendation:

- "The Pig War" by Emma Bland Smith



March 14th | National Learn About Butterflies Day

K-4th Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: Pollinators

Lesson:

- Butterfly Life Cycle
- Bag Butterfly

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Pollinators

Lesson:

- It Starts with "M"...
- Butterfly Wingspan Graphing

Reader: Pollinator Reader



National Ag Day

K-3rd Lesson Plan:

Lesson: Farm Boots

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Careers

Lesson: Super Heroes of Illinois Ag

Extra: Ag-Venture with Careers

Book Recommendations:

- "Harvest Year" by Cris Peterson
- "Farm Boots" by Lisl H. Detlefsen

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

March 12 - National Plant a Flower Day || March 19 - National Poultry Day

March 20 - World Flour Day || March 26 - National Spinach Day



April

National Garden Month



Gardens

K-6th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Horticulture

Lesson:

- Parts of a Flower
- Throw and Grow

Book Recommendations:

- "The Curious Garden" by Peter Brown
- "Stepping Stones: A Graphic Novel" by Lucy Kinsley



April 4 | International Carrot Day

K-6th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Nutrition

Lesson: Ins and Outs

Recipe:

Oven Roasted Carrots Recipe

Book Recommendations:

- "The Giant Carrot" by Jan Peck
- "Too Many Carrots" by Katy Hudson



April 10 | National Farm Animal Day

K-2nd Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: Livestock

Lesson: Moo Mask

3rd -8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Livestock

Lesson:

- Moovin' On Through: Intro to Ruminant
- Ruminant Navigation

Book Recommendation:

- "Barn at Night" by Michelle Houts



April 22 | Earth Day

K-2nd Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: Earth Day

Lesson: Circle of Earth Bracelet

3rd -8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Sustainability

Lesson: Ag-Venture with Sustainability

Book Recommendation:

- "Thank you, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet" by April Pulley Sayre

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

April 2 - National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day || April 14 - National Gardening Day

April 26 - National Pretzel Day || April 27 - National Prime Rib Day



May National Egg Month



Eggs

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Poultry

Lesson: Egg Anatomy

Reader: Poultry Reader

[IL Eggs in the Classroom](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "The Good Egg" by Jory John and Pete Oswald



May 4 | National Herb Day

K-4th Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [Coriander and Cilantro Cuisine](#)

3rd-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Specialty Crops](#)

Lesson: [Plant Parts Logic Puzzle](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "Rooftop Garden" by Danna Smith



May 24 | National Fruit & Vegetable Day

K-5th Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [Plant Parts Matching](#)

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag:

- [Specialty Crops](#)
- [Farmers Markets](#)

Lesson: [Ode to a Vegetable](#)

Book Recommendations:

- "Try It!" by Mara Rockliff



More Poultry Book Recommendations

- "The Interrupting Chicken" by David Ezra Stein
- "Sonya's Chickens" by Phoebe Wahl
- "Big Chickens" by Leslie Helakoski
- "An Egg is Quiet" by Dianna Hutts Aston
- "Mr. Watson's Chickens" by Jarrett Dapier
- "What Will Hatch?" by Jennifer Ward

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

National Salad Month || National Strawberry Month

May 4 - National Orange Juice Day || May 28 - National Hamburger Day



June

National Dairy Month



Dairy

K-4th Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: Dairy
Lesson: Balancing Cow

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Dairy
Reader: Dairy Reader
Extra: Ag-Venture with Dairy

Book Recommendation:

- "Cow in Patrick O'Shanahan's Kitchen" by Diana Prichard



June 4 | National Cheese Day

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Dairy
Lesson:

- Cheese Logic Puzzle
- Cud to Curd

Additional Material: Dairy Reader

Book Recommendation:

- "From Milk to Cheese (Who Made My Lunch?)" by Bridget Heos

June 11 | National Corn on the Cob Day

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Corn
Lesson:

- Oobleck
- DIY Packing Peanut

Reader: Corn Reader

Recipe:

Corn Tomato Avocado Salad

Book Recommendation:

- "Corn" by Gail Gibbons



National Pollinators Month

K-3rd Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: Pollinators
Lesson:

- Handprint Flower
- Powder-Powered Pollination

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Pollinators
Reader: Pollinator Reader
Extra: Ag-Venture with Pollinators

Book Recommendation:

- "Pollen" by Darcy Pattison

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

June 1 - National Olive Day || June 3 - National Egg Day

June 5 - World Environment Day || June 8 - National Insect Appreciation Day

July

National Picnic Month



Picnic Month

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag:

- Farmers Markets
- Nutrition

Lesson: Hungry Planet Gallery Walk

Reader: Nutrition Reader

Extra: Ag-Venture with Farmers Markets

Book Recommendation:

- "Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic" by Ginnie Lo

1st Saturday | National Play Outside Day

3rd-6th Lesson Plan:

Lesson:

- Outdoor Adventure Book
- Outdoor BINGO
- Beneficial Bugs Scavenger Hunt

Book Recommendations:

- "Farm Boots" by Lisl H. Detlefsen
- "Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt" by Kate Messner

2nd Tuesday | Cow Appreciation Day



4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag:

- Dairy
- Beef

Lesson:

- Cattle Corrections
- Penciling Out Dairy Production and Profit

Readers:

- Dairy Reader
- Beef Reader

Extra: Ag-Venture with Beef

3rd Sunday | National Ice Cream Day



4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: Dairy

Lesson: Ice Cream in a Bag Experiments

Recipe:

- Strawberry Ice Cream in a Bag
- Ice Cream in a Bag

Book Recommendation:

- "Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" by Viola Butler

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

July 3 - National Eat your Beans Day || July 14 - National Mac & Cheese Day

Fourth Saturday - National Day of the Cowboy

August

National Back to School Month

Back to School

School Year Calendar

For a school year Calendar reach out to your county coordinator [here!](#)

3rd-8th Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [Back to School with Ag](#)

Additional Material:

- [Back to School Poster](#)
- [Back to School Video](#)

Aug. 9 | National Book Lovers Day

4th-6th Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [Graphic Novel Analysis](#)

Book Recommendations:

- "Pumpkinheads" by Rainbow Rowel
- "Measuring Up" by Lily LaMotte
- "The Great American Dust Bowl" by Don Brown

[Book Recommendation Lists](#)

3rd Sunday | World Honey Bee Day

1st-4th Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: [Pollinators](#)

Lesson: [Build-a-Bee-Hotel](#)

3rd-6th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Pollinators](#)

Lesson: [The Bees Knees and More](#)

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [A Day in the Life of...](#)

[Bee School](#)

Aug. 29 | National Lemon Juice Day

Recipe:

[State Fair Lemonade Shake Ups](#)

Aug. 31 | National Trail Mix Day

Recipe:

[Trail Mix](#)

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

Aug. 3 - National Watermelon Day || Aug. 10 - National S'mores Day

Aug. 19 - National Potato Day



Whole Grains

K-4th Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: [Wheat](#)
Lesson: [Wheat Milling](#)

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Wheat](#)
Lesson: [Ag-Venture with Wheat](#)
Reader: [Wheat Reader](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "The Thing About Luck" by Cynthia Kadohata

National Chicken Month

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Poultry](#)
Lesson:

- [Chicken Riddle](#)
- [Chicken Wings](#)
- [Egg Farming Then and Now](#)

Reader: [Poultry Reader](#)

Extra: [Ag-Venture with Poultry](#)

Recipe:

[Chicken Pot Pie](#)

Sept. 26 | National Johnny Appleseed Day

K-4th Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: [Apples](#)
Junior Ag Mag: [Apples](#)
Lesson:

- [Apple-Copter](#)
- [Apple Chain](#)
- [Apple Blossom Tree](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "Seed by Seed" by Esme Raji Codell

Fall Book Recommendations

- "Big Pumpkin" by Erica Silverman
- "Too Many Pumpkins" by Linda White
- "Little Boo" by Stephen Wunderli
- "Hello, Harvest Moon" by Ralph Fletcher
- "It's Fall!" by Linda Glaser
- "Apple Crush: A Graphic Novel" by Lucy Knisley
- "Pick a Pumpkin" by Patricia Toht

[Patricia Toht Author of "Pick a Pumpkin" Interview](#)

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

Sept. 15 - National Double Cheeseburger Day || Sept. 20 - National Pepperoni Pizza Day

Sept. 29 - National Coffee Day

October

National Pizza Month



Pizza

3rd-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Pizza](#)

Lesson: [Ag-Venture with Pizza](#)

Reader: [Pizza Reader](#)

Recipe:

[Whole Wheat Pizza](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "Pizza!: A Slice of History" by Greg Pizzoli



National Apple Month

3rd-6th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Apples](#)

Lesson:

- [Apple Idiom](#)
- [Apple Pie Journey](#)

Reader: [Apple Reader](#)

Extra: [Ag-Venture with Apples](#)

Book Recommendations:

- "Apple Pie Picnic" by Alicia Duran
- "Applesauce Day" by Lisa Amstutz



Oct. 16 | World Food Day

3rd-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Nutrition](#)

Reader: [Nutrition Reader](#)

Recipe:

[Baked Pumpkin Seeds](#)

[Pigs in a Blanket](#)

[State Fair Funnel Cakes](#)

[Tofu Lasagna](#)



Oct. 26 | National Pumpkin Day

K-3rd Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: [Pumpkins](#)

Junior Ag Mag: [Pumpkins](#)

Lesson:

- [Pumpkin Chain](#)
- [What's inside my Pumpkin?](#)
- [Pumpkin Pie In-a-Bag](#)

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Pumpkins](#)

Reader: [Pumpkin Reader](#)

Extra: [Ag-Venture with Pumpkins](#)

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

Oct. 4 - National Taco Day || Oct. 12 - National Farmer's Day

Oct. 17 - National Pasta Day

November

National Peanut Butter Lovers Month

Peanut Butter

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Lesson:

- Peanut Production
- George Washington Carver

Book Recommendations:

- "From Peanuts to Peanut Butter (Who Made My Lunch?)" by Bridget Heos
- "PB&J Hooray!: Your Sandwich's Amazing Journey from Farm to Table" by Janet Nolan

Nov. 8 | National S.T.E.M. Day

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Lesson:

- Scientific Inquiry Worksheet
- STEM Student Worksheet

Book Recommendations:

- "The Great Pumpkin Smash" by Lori Haskins Houran
- "Inventors Secret" by Suzanne Slade
- "7 Days till Ice Cream" by Bernardo Feliciano

Nov. 23 | National Eat a Cranberry Day

Book Recommendations:

- "Time for Cranberries" by Lisl H. Detlefsen

Author Interview

- "Thanks for Thanksgiving" by Julie Markes
- "The Night Before Thanksgiving" by Natasha Wing

Football

3rd-5th Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [Football Charm](#)

Additional Material:

- [Football Poster](#)
- [Football and Agriculture Video](#)

Sports

Sports & Agriculture Lessons

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

Nov. 3 - National Sandwich Day || Nov. 15 - America Recycles Day

Nov. 17 - National Butter Day || 4th Thursday - Thanksgiving

December

National Root Vegetable Month



Root Vegetables

2nd-5th Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [Tops and Bottoms](#)

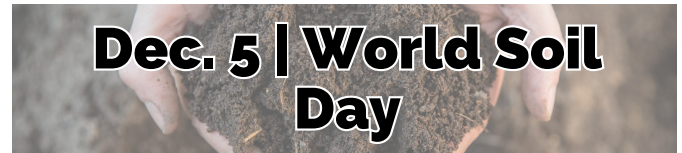
4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Lesson:

- [Integrated Pest Management](#)
- [Sprouting Success in Illinois from North to South](#)

Book Recommendations:

- "Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament" by Anne Renaud
- "Chip and Curly" by Cathy Breisacher



Dec. 5 | World Soil Day

K-5th Lesson Plan:

Facts for Little Readers: [Soil](#)

Junior Ag Mag: [Soil](#)

Lesson:

- [Soil Cereal Stack](#)
- [Soil Sam](#)

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Soil](#)

Lesson:

- [Say it with Soil](#)
- [Soil Sleuths Mystery](#)

Reader: [Soil Reader](#)



Dec. 7 | National Illinois Day

4th-8th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Illinois History](#)

Lesson:

- [A Trip Through Illinois](#)
- [Prairie State Mapping](#)
- [Investigate Illinois](#)

Extra: [Ag-Venture with IL History](#)

Book Recommendation:

- "Oak Leaf" by John Sandford



Dec. 12 | National Poinsettia Day

2nd-4th Lesson Plan:

Lesson: [Paper Poinsettia](#)

5th-12th Lesson Plan:

Ag Mag: [Seasons](#)

Lesson: [pH Poinsettia](#)

Book Recommendations:

- "Zetta the Poinsettia" by Alma Hammond
- "The Legend of the Poinsettia" by Tomie dePaola

Other Ag Related Days to Celebrate

Dec. 1 - National Pie Day || Dec. 13 - National Day of the Horse

Dec. 17 - National Maple Syrup Day || Dec. 30 - National Bacon Day