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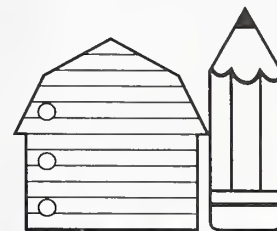


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Ag in the Classroom

Notes

United States
Department of
Agriculture



JAN/FEB 97
Vol. 12, No. 1

A bi-monthly newsletter for the Agriculture in the Classroom Program. Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to help students understand the important role of agriculture in the United States economy. For information, contact the AITC Director, Room 4307, South Bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-0991. 202/720-7925.

Resource Guide Available

The 1996 edition of AITC's *Resource Guide to Educational Materials About Agriculture* is now available. This 112-page book is a compilation of materials that are available from across the United States that have been specifically developed for classroom use.

The 343 individual entries are listed alphabetically within four broad categories: printed materials; audio-visuals, posters, and teaching kits; resource guides or catalogues; and miscellaneous. They are indexed by title and content areas.

Entries cover the broad range of subjects that teachers must teach. "A Sour Subject" on page 3, teaches observation, mathematical computation, and written expression lesson in comparing a grapefruit to a lemon. "Who Gets Your Food Dollar?" on page 80 is a poster produced by the Farm Bureau showing that farmers receive only about 24 cents out of each dollar spent on food.

More than half the items in this year's *Resource Guide* are new. Examples include a game called "Beef-O Bingo" (page 86), which helps students learn about beef byproducts. "From Genes to Jeans" (page 22) introduces students to genetic research, technologies associated with agriculture, and plant breeding by showing how all these subjects play a role in producing the students' favorite pair of blue jeans. "Gone With the Wind" (page 23) teaches students about soil erosion and how to prevent it.

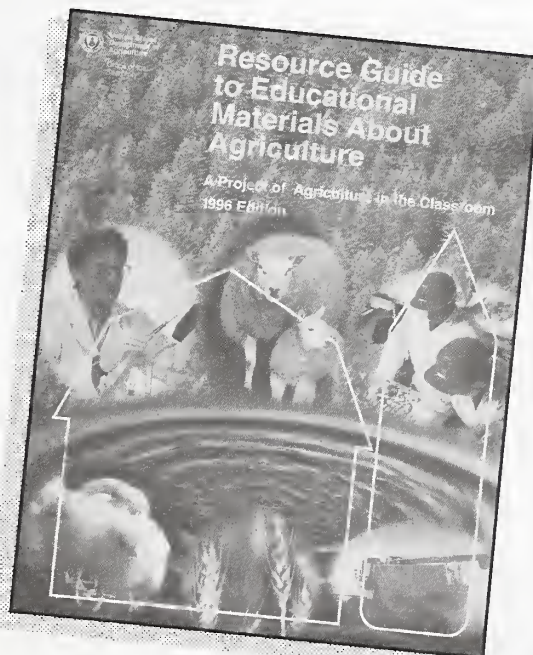
"The materials are increasingly sophisticated, as evidenced by having the first CD-ROM," says Betty Wolanyk, director of the national Ag in the Classroom Program. That CD, "From Moo to You"

(page 64) helps students learn about milk production and processing as they travel through barns, pastures, processing plants, supermarkets, and their school.

"The diversity and quality of materials continues to improve and expand," Wolanyk says. "It is our intent to update the *Resource Guide* on an annual basis."

The *Resource Guide* is available free of charge by contacting the Ag in the Classroom Office, Room 4309, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-0991; 202-720-7925.

The new AITC Resource Guide lists resources that can help tell agriculture's story in the classroom.



From the Director:

Once again we have a great event planned for the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. The conference is scheduled for July 9-12, 1997 in Nashua, NH, at the Sheraton, Tara. This site is just north of the New Hampshire/Massachusetts border north of Boston. The short trip can be made by rental car, airport shuttle, or public transit bus. When you pre-register for the conference, we will send you a packet of information with those details included.

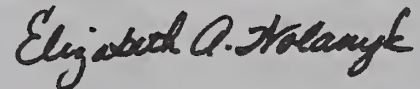
We have scheduled this conference for the summer to accommodate those individuals unable to attend in either May or June. We realize that this will provide a challenge for some of our regular attendees, but the conference agenda will recruit many newcomers. The hotel rates of \$75 per night – double or single – should also appeal to you. Registration fees may seem higher than our usual rate, but include all meals beginning with the Wednesday reception and ending at the Saturday luncheon. A traditional New England Lobster Bake is also part of the meal package.

I am thrilled that Dennis Avery (*Global Food Progress* and *Saving the Planet With Pesticides*

and *Plastics*) will be our keynote speaker and that Jane Shaw (*Facts Not Fear*) is one of the authors scheduled to join us. These two authors have a perspective which challenges many commonly held beliefs about the environment. These speakers and others will ensure that this conference lives up to your expectations.

I would like to encourage you to extend your stay in New England by beginning with the fourth of July weekend, perhaps in Boston proper. What better place to celebrate our country's independence than in the back yard of John Adams, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, the Boston Tea Party, and the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere. We are seeking an events calendar to share with you for Fourth of July weekend activities. Bring your families!

We hope to see you there!



Elizabeth A. Wolanyk
Director

Video: See the Art and Science of Cheesemaking

If the moon isn't made of green cheese, then where does all the cheese in the supermarket come from? Much of it comes from Wisconsin. Young viewers can get an in-depth look at how cheese is made in *The Art of Cheesemaking*, a 17-minute video produced by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

Making cheese, the video explains, involves a blend of nature, science, and artistry. Despite the myriad of different cheeses available, all cheesemaking uses fundamentally the same process. The video explains and demonstrates the steps involved in making any cheese, giving students a chance to see how milk that arrives at the cheesemaker in a stainless steel milk truck moves through testing, adding coagulants, cutting, stirring, pressing, and curing. At each step, cheesemakers combine their understanding of science (which temperature must be maintained during this process?) with

art (is the cheese aged to perfection, or could it be left a little longer).

After learning how all cheeses are made, students see the techniques that make one cheese different from another. There's plenty of information here to help students learn about how and why their favorite cheese has the flavor and texture it does.

Teachers who are interested in helping students learn how a raw agricultural product becomes a finished commodity will find *The Art of Cheesemaking* a valuable resource. But it will also answer questions from children who wonder how their favorite cheese – whether it's cheddar or string cheese – was made.

The Art of Cheesemaking is available from the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, 8418 Excelsior Drive, Madison, WI 53717; 608-836-8820. Cost is \$25.00. Specify order number 8050.

Spotlight

ARS Teams Up With Ag in the Classroom

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has joined with Ag in the Classroom to produce and distribute two new resources that will help teachers and students learn about science. *Investigating Plants: Hands-On, Low-Cost Laboratory Exercises in Plant Science*, and *Science in Your Shopping Cart* are both available now from the AITC national office.

Investigating Plants, written by ARS scientists Thomas Sinclair and Marty Johnson, was developed, they say, "as a way for students to **do** science rather than just **learn about** science." And while the experiments focus on plant life, they should also help students learn important lessons about discovery and the scientific process.

The book presents 14 exercises that can be used to supplement the usual classroom activities in an introductory biology class. Each of the exercises is essentially independent – teachers can choose one or more depending on their curriculum.

Each activity includes educational objectives, a brief biology background, a description of the experimental environment and materials required, a detailed presentation of procedures, information for students, topics to stimulate discussion, and ideas for further activities. Activities cover topics from flower and seed anatomy to germination to phototropism, transpiration, and competition.

Science in Your Shopping Cart demonstrates how ARS scientists have helped provide the abundance and variety of foods found on the supermarket shelves. The book offers example after example of the work ARS scientists have done.

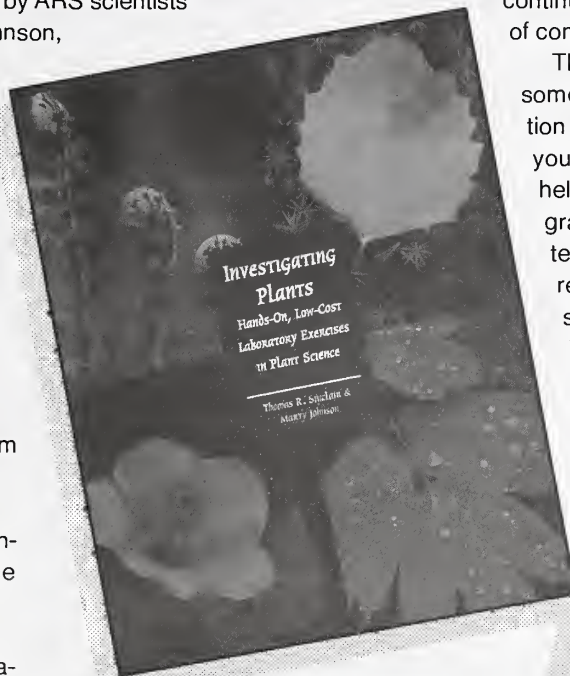
For example, in "Potato A-Peel," readers learn that ARS scientists first invented the process of

turning surplus potatoes into instant potato flakes. Scientists are also developing solutions to combat the *Phytophthora infestans* fungus, which can suddenly turn potatoes into a "slimy, smelly mess."

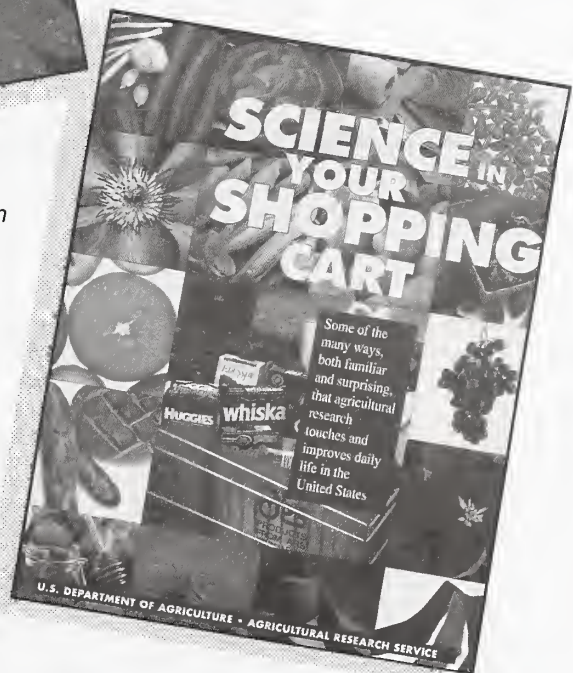
ARS scientists help assure the safety of beef and poultry products. From developing vaccines to ensure the health of beef cattle to identifying genes that can lead to leaner beef, their work continues to meet the needs of consumers.

The book also includes some surprising information – for example, did you know that ARS has helped develop biodegradable cutlery? For teachers looking for resource material to supplement their own lessons, *Science in Your Shopping Cart* is an excellent publication.

Two free resource guides help students learn about science



Investigating Plants and *Science in Your Shopping Cart* are available free of charge by contacting the Ag in the Classroom Office, Room 4309, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-0991; 202-720-7925.



Discovery Through Agriculture July 9-12, 1997 Sherton Tara • Nashua, NH

Preliminary Agenda

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Pre-Conference Tour - Shelburne Farms (fee charged, lunch included) Optional Tour

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

8:00 a.m.	Registration Open
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Set Up Exhibits
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Workshops
The Internet	New England Dairy and Food Council Materials - Jane Cappannelli
Beginners - How to Use the Internet	- Debra Spielmaker Utah Ag in the Classroom National Gardening Association - Jim Flint
Intermediate - Developing a Home Page/Web Site	- Becky Richmond and Karen Kalsem (invited) National Pork Producers Council
Noon - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Newcomer's Session
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Make and Take Session
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	State Contacts Meeting
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Facilitator Session
6:00 p.m.	All Exhibits Set Up
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Welcome to New England Reception View Exhibits Ag in the Classroom Consortium Silent Auction Storyteller

Thursday, July 10, 1997

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Coffee with the Consortium
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Welcome to New Hampshire - NH Commissioner of Agriculture <i>Saving Wildlife with America's High-Yield Agriculture</i> Speaker - Dennis Avery
	2 minute ideas Door Prizes
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<i>Science As Inquiry</i> - Wisconsin Fast Plants and Bottle Biology Speaker - Dr. Judith Fischer, Lesley College
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Break
12:30 p.m.	Teacher Recognition Luncheon 2 minute ideas Door Prizes
2:10 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	Round Table Session
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Make and Take Session
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Regional Meetings
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Reception
6:30 p.m.	Awards Banquet with Authors and Video Producer
	Jerry Pallotta, <i>Going Lobstering</i> and the Alphabet Book Series (<i>The Spice Alphabet Book, The Victory Garden Vegetable Alphabet Book, The Icky Bug Alphabet Book, The Flower Alphabet Book</i>)

Thursday, July 10, 1997

6:30 p.m.

Jane Shaw, *Fact Not Fear*

Chris Peterson, *Summer on the Farm 1 and 2 and Winter on the Farm Video Series*

Secretary of Agriculture and The Commissioners of Agriculture From the New England State (invited)

Friday, July 11, 1997

Tours and On-site Mini-Workshops in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts

Aquaculture/Marine Education

Tour Cranberry Bog/Plymouth Plantation/Ocean Spray Visitor Center Tour

Connecticut River Ecology/Sawmill/Sugarhouse/Toothpick Factory Tour

Glass Milk Bottling/Diversified Farming/Food Processing Tour

Portland Fish Market/Strawberry Production/Maple Production Tour

6:30 p.m.

Brookdale Fruit Farm
Lobster Bake
How to Eat a Lobster
Chaitanya York (Invited)

Make Your Own Ice
Cream Dessert
Entertainment-The Old Grey Goose (Invited)

Saturday, July 12, 1997

7:30 am-9:00 am

Breakfast
2 Minute Ideas
Door Prizes

9:00 am-9:15 am

Break

9:15 am-10:30 am

Round Table Session

10:45 am-11:45 am

Workshops

Educators

Ag in the Classroom Staff and Volunteers

Educator Sharing Session

Meet the New England Programs

AGRI-Enrich! AGRI-Inspire! AGRI-Innovate Through Children's Literature
- Dr. Larry Dale

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut
- Lynne Blye, Moderator

Dig In (National Cattleman's Beef Association Materials)
- Barbara Selover

Fund Raising
- Marsha Purcell

(Other workshops to be determined)

11:45 am

Break

12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Lunch with Janet Gray, Florida Teacher

2:00 pm

Conference Adjourned

2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Meeting of the Consortium of State Ag in the Classroom Programs

Conference Registration and Exhibit Fees

Please fill out this registration form for the conference and return it to the National Ag in the Classroom Office by June 6, 1997 to register for the conference. Early bird registration is \$175.00 if postmarked by June 6, 1997. Late registration is \$225.00 if postmarked after June 6, 1997 but before July 1, 1997.

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS MADE ! Registering at conference will be \$250.00.

Exhibitor registration fee includes both booth space and registration fee for the conference. State Exhibits are free. Registration for exhibitors involved in the conference program is \$275.00. Registration for commercial exhibitors is \$375.00. Exhibitor registration at the conference is \$400.00.

Registration fees include all meals listed in the conference program beginning with the Wednesday evening reception.

All checks should be made out to
New Hampshire Ag in the Classroom
and mailed to

Ag in the Classroom
Room 4309 S, USDA
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Exhibit and parcel shipments should be sent to :

Your Name, Ag in the Classroom Conference
c/o Christine Tascione
Sheraton Tara Hotel
Tara Boulevard
Nashua, NH 03062

Please mark Packages HOLD FOR ARRIVAL and plan for them to arrive after July 5, 1997.

Hotel

The 1997 National Ag in the Classroom Conference will be held in a castle, complete with suits of armor and a moat. The Sheraton, Tara is located just inside the border between New Hampshire and Massachusetts off of Route 3. Located about thirty miles north of Boston in a seemingly secluded location, the site is very convenient to other New England states for tours.

The Conference room rates are \$75.00 per night single or double occupancy. There is an 8% state occupancy tax. These rates will be in effect two days prior to and following the conference.

Make your reservations directly with the hotel by phoning (603) 888-9970 or through the automated reservation system at (800) THE TARA and keying into New Hampshire, the Nashua at the prompts. Identify yourself as attending the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. The deadline for reservations at this rate is June 10, 1997. Please make your reservations by that deadline to insure room availability.



1997 National Ag in the Classroom Conference Attendees Pre-registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone () _____ Evening telephone () _____

Affiliation _____

Teacher no yes grade level _____ Board Member yes no

Arrival Date _____ Time _____ Departure Date _____ Time _____

Registration Fee (Make Checks Payable to New Hampshire Ag in the Classroom)

- Early Bird \$175.00 (postmarked by June 6, 1997)
- Pre-Conference Registration \$225.00 (postmarked by July 1, 1997)
- Registration at Conference \$250.00
- I would like to attend the Shelburne Farms Pre-Conference Tour - Fee \$25.00

Recognition of Service

Number of years you have been working with Ag in the Classroom _____

1997 National Ag in the Classroom Conference Exhibitor Pre-registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone () _____ Evening telephone () _____

Affiliation _____

Arrival Date _____ Time _____ Departure Date _____ Time _____

Exhibitor Registration Fee – Includes conference registration (Make Checks Payable to New Hampshire Ag in the Classroom)

- State Exhibit, one per state free of charge (Fill out attendee registration and pay registration fee indicated)
 - Exhibitor included in the program \$275.00 (postmarked by June 6, 1997)
 - Commercial Exhibitor \$375.00 (postmarked by June 15, 1997)
 - Exhibitor Registration at Conference \$400.00
- I will require 1 six-foot table 2 six-foot tables electrical outlets wall space (no materials may be attached to the wall)
- other, please specify _____

Recognition of Service

Number of years you have been working with Ag in the Classroom _____

Ag in the Classroom---State Contacts

The individuals listed here are key reference persons in each state. If you have any questions, want to make reports, or need more information about your state's Ag in the Classroom program, contact the following:

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Ms. Jane Alice Lee
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Montgomery, AL 36117
334-240-7124

Ms. Brenda Summerlin
Dept of Ag & Industries
PO Box 3336
Montgomery, AL 36193
334-240-7124

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Alaska AITC
P.O. Box 62
Willow, AK 99688-0062
907-495-1018

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Box 953
Delta Junction, AK 99737
907 895-4819 (H)

Arizona

Arizona Farm Bureau
3401 East Elwood Street
Phoenix, AZ 85040-1625
602-470-0088

Monica Pastor
Chair, Arizona AITC Task Force
4001 E. Broadway #B-9
Phoenix, AZ 85040
602-437-1330

Arkansas

Dr. Larry R. Dale
ASU Center for Economic
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P.O. Box 2890
State Univ., AR 72467-2890
501-972-3810

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Mr. Mark Linder
CA Foundation for AITC
1601 Exposition Blvd FB 16
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Colorado

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Colorado Dept of Agriculture
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Windsor, CO 80550
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Georgia Farm Bureau
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Ag in the Classroom Notes

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Washington, D.C. 20250-0991

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