

Educational Presentations

Agriculture in the Classroom

The Farm Bureau and Soil and Water Conservation District of Kendall County have partnered to provide agricultural education to county students and teachers throughout the year. The AITC program targets 2nd and 4th graders in a regularly scheduled program focusing on agriculture's importance in our lives. To enroll your class in the program or to request more information, please contact Jenny Wold, Education Coordinator.

Conservation in the Classroom

Conservation in the Classroom is a spin-off of Agriculture in the Classroom focusing on teaching natural resource conservation through scheduled programming in 5th grade classrooms. There will be two presentations throughout the school year to be scheduled by the classroom teacher. These presentations will be interactive, standard-based, and range between 30-45 minutes. The two presentations for this year will focus on renewable resources and watersheds. For more information or to enroll, please contact Jenny Wold, Education Coordinator.

Ag in a Bag

These are quick, fun agricultural activities that focus on specific topics like field crops, food crops, plants, livestock, and farms. They can range between 15-20 minutes so they can easily fit into any classroom. These activities/lessons are meant to promote agricultural literacy and aid students in becoming educated consumers. Ag in a Bag is perfect for 3rd and 4th grade classrooms.

More Than Just Dirt

This presentation is meant to help students understand soil—what it's made of, the layers, the nutrients in it, and which types best support plant life. Students will observe the different components of soil and do hands-on activities related to soil (activity dependant on grade level). Most appropriate for grades k-4th.

Illinois Learning Standards Addressed:
10.A.1a, 12.C.1b, 12.E.1c

Incredible, Edible Landfill

This presentation/activity teaches students about landfill construction, soil information, and recycling. Background information, non-consumable items, and personnel to deliver program are available. Consumable materials for students need to be provided by the class/school at an approximate cost of \$.50 each. This lesson is appropriate for grades 4th and up.

Illinois Standards Addressed:
11.B.2c, 12.B.2a, 12.E.2c, 13.B.2c

Illinois Jeopardy

Just as the name implies, this is a game played similar to Jeopardy that concentrates on Illinois features; symbols, agriculture, natural resources, animals, and landforms. This game was created to supplement 4th grade curriculum, but can be played in 5th and 6th grade as well.

Illinois Standards Addressed:

12.B.2a, 12.E.2a

Restorative Wetlands and Powerful Prairies

This lesson utilizes a three dimensional model to demonstrate the basic functions and value of wetlands and prairies. In addition, the demonstration addresses how human activities on land directly affect wetlands. This lesson would be ideal for late elementary school, middle/junior high school, and early high school students.

Illinois Standards Addressed:

12.B.3a, 12.B.4a, 13.B.3d, 13.B.3e, 13.B.2f

Build Illinois

Build Illinois is a three dimensional representation of Illinois's geologic history from 500,000 years ago to the present. Using sand and manipulatives, students learn the geologic time line that formed Illinois landforms and organisms. This 45 minute presentation is appropriate for single classrooms (because of the size of the model) in late elementary, middle/junior high school, and early high school.

Illinois Standards Addressed:

12.B.2z, 12.B.2b, 12.D.2b, 12.E.2a, 12.E.2b, 12.B.3a, 12.B.3b, 12.C.3a, 12.D.3a, 12.E.3a, 12.E.3b, 12.B.4a, 12.E.4a, 12.E.4b

Green Opportunities

Through this lesson, students are able to explore the career options available in agriculture and natural resources. An interactive game will be played to enhance the learning experience. This lesson would be a perfect supplement to any career exploration type unit. It can be modified for any grade level.

SWCD 101

This presentation is an introduction to the Soil and Water Conservation District; what it is, why it was created, its programs available and their value to counties. This is a great lesson for high school biology, horticulture, or agriculture students. It would also be appropriate for a political or environmental science course.

Illinois Learning Standards Addressed:

13.B.4d, 13.B.3e

Additional Resources/Opportunities

mAGic Kits

Available for loan, the kit curriculum (grades 4-8) is multidisciplinary, all inclusive and designed to bring agriculture to life in your classroom. The kits address Illinois Learning Standards in math, science, English language arts, and social studies. Dairy, Soils, Plants, Insects, and Poultry kits are available immediately.

Agri-Learning Kits

These kits, from the Farm Bureau, are available for loan to elementary teachers. Each kit has one or more activities focused on individual topics, books, videos, curriculum ideas for each, and consumable materials for 30 students. The themes are: Pumpkins, Apples, Pizza, and Dairy Foods.

Agri-Science Kits

These kits are self-contained science experiments with consumable materials for 30 students. Each kit includes manual with information needed to successfully complete each experiment. Subject areas are: Corn, Soybeans, Weather, Measurement, Animal Nutrition, Insects, and Genetics. Kits are loaned on the first come, first serve basis.

Illinois Ag Mags

"The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom *Ag Mags* are 4-page, colorful agricultural magazines for kids. They contain information about agriculture, bright pictures, classroom activities, and agricultural careers"(<http://www.agintheclassroom.org>). *Ag Mags* available at the Education Program Office include horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle, soil, water, horticulture, hogs, corn, apples, biotechnology, pizza, and pumpkins. Please contact Jenny Wold if you would like a classroom set of any of the available topics.

Animal Tracks

The SWCD office has a set of cast animal tracks for teacher use. These tracks can be used to make a set for your classroom.

Agriculture/Environmental Curriculum and Activities

There are many curriculum resources available through the education program. These are located at the Kendall County Farm Bureau office in Yorkville. Teachers can learn about these resources through visiting our office, calling, or checking out our online inventory (which should be up by the end of September).

Envirothon

The Envirothon, sponsored by the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District, is a natural resources competition for high school students. The SWCD would love to sponsor a team from Kendall County for the 2008 competition. During the school year, students study materials (provided by the SWCD) Forestry, Aquatics, Wildlife, and Soils, with an additional annual topic. The teams (5 students) compete against other teams in

a 7 county area in April. The winning team will advance to a state competition in Monticello later in the spring. The winning team advances to a summer national competition. If you have an environmental club or team from science class that would like to participate, please call Jenny Wold.

Insect/Animal Specimens

The education program has specimens of hawks, owls, and insects available in the Kendall County Farm Bureau Office. These specimens can be brought to classrooms to be displayed.

Books/VHS/DVDs

There are MANY books, VHS, and DVDs relating to agriculture and environmental topics available through the education program. These items can be loaned to classes throughout the year.

Teacher Workshops

Teachers are offered opportunities to learn about ways to incorporate agriculture and environmental concepts into their classrooms throughout the school year. The district is a Illinois State Provider, offering CEU's and CPDU's. An annual Summer Agriculture Institute is also offered, with 3 graduate credit hours from Aurora University. If you, or a group, have a need for workshop on a particular topic related to agriculture or the environment, please call the SWCD office.

Note: SWCD Education website will be updated throughout this year to serve as online database of materials, curriculum, programming, grants, scholarship, contests, and news related to the education program and the opportunities available. It can be accessed at <http://www.kendallswcd.org/education.htm>.

Contact Jenny Wold at the Soil and Water Conservation District Office to schedule presentations or with questions concerning the program or available materials.

Have a great 2007-2008 school year!