

Texas Farm Bureau - Agriculture in the Classroom

Outstanding Teacher Award

Deadline: October 11, 2019

What is Ag in the Classroom?

Food, fiber, feed, and fuel. That's what agriculture produces. Food is one of the last shared experiences of every member of the human race. Not only is it essential that society understands food & fiber production, it is also the perfect experience to give meaning to educational concepts, because every student is familiar with food and clothing. Agriculture offers context to the content.

Ag in the Classroom is a multifaceted approach to increase agricultural literacy across the state. Texas Farm Bureau wants to recognize and reward those teachers who go above and beyond in the classroom to increase the agricultural literacy of their students.

The Award –

One award will be presented to a classroom teacher for their creative efforts to teach students about the importance of agriculture. Teachers must utilize agricultural information and/or materials within their classroom curriculum. Learning activities may include, but are not limited to, an understanding of agriculture's impact on personal lives, our national heritage, the environment, our national security, and the economy. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

Eligibility –

- Certified PK-12 classroom teachers who actively teach about agriculture
- Any content area is acceptable, with the exception of vocational agriculture
- Previous winners of the award are not eligible; however, teachers who have previously applied but weren't selected may apply again

Selection –

All nominations will be evaluated by a panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education, and Agriculture in the Classroom. Judges may include one or more county Farm Bureau representatives; however, judges will not be selected from counties that have submitted a nomination.

Prizes –

The winning teacher will receive:

- \$600 cash award
- Expenses paid to the Texas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX on December 7-8, 2019 (**Attendance is mandatory**)
- Expenses paid to the 2020 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 23-26, 2020
- Nomination for the National Ag in the Classroom Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture award

The county that nominates the winning teacher will receive:

- \$400 cash award
- Recognition on stage with the winning teacher at the TFB Annual Meeting

Submission –

- Each county Farm Bureau may nominate one teacher.
- Deadline for nominations is **October 11th, 2019**. County Farm Bureaus and applicants will be notified of judges' decision after October 18th, 2019.
- Submission may be made by mail or email. If submitting by email, please submit all components with signatures in PDF form to edoutreach@txfb.org. If submitting by mail, please mail all components to the address below, and email the photo jpg to edoutreach@txfb.org.

Texas Farm Bureau
Ag in the Classroom
P.O. Box 2689
Waco, TX 76702-2689

Checklist (for personal use, there is no need to submit checklist) - Nomination **must** include:

- _____ **Nomination outline** (attached)
- _____ **Summary** (no more than 250 words, guidelines attached)
- _____ **Narrative response** (no more than 4 pages, guidelines attached)
- _____ **Letter of acknowledgement by County Farm Bureau President**
- _____ **Letter of endorsement by an administrator** corroborating applicant's information
- _____ **Texas Farm Bureau Photo Release** (attached)
- _____ **Portrait headshot in .jpg format** (School photos are acceptable as well as other professional headshots)

Additional information deemed necessary such as additional letters of support, additional awards/recognition, lesson plans, and photographs may be submitted in a separate document.

Nomination Outline

Name: _____ TFB Member #: _____

Home Address: _____ Cell: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Grade level: _____ Subject(s): _____

Number of years teaching experience: _____ Number of years at current school: _____

Education

| Institution | Year | Degree/Certification |
|-------------|-------|----------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Professional Experience

| Position | School/Organization | Dates |
|----------|---------------------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Awards and Honors Related to Teaching

Other Recognition or Honors

Membership in Professional Organizations

One-paragraph Biographical Sketch

Signature of Nominee

Date

Signature of Nominator (*County Farm Bureau President or committee chair*)

Date

Position

Contact (phone or email, in case of questions)

Guidelines

Summary and Narrative

Summary

Please provide a summary of the agricultural learning activities and approach to using agricultural concepts in no more than 250 words, *separate from narrative*.

Narrative – (No more than 4 pages)

Share your method of integrating and instructing one or more of the following national agricultural literacy themes in your classroom. How did you use the theme (or themes) to increase agricultural literacy? Please note on the first line of your narrative which theme(s) you are addressing:

1. Agriculture and the Environment
2. Plants and Animals for Food, Fiber & Energy
3. Food, Health, and Lifestyle
4. Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
5. Culture, Society, Economy & Geography

Narrative will be evaluated on the clarity and apparentness of the following areas. Include all areas for maximum points.

- Creativity and utilization of agricultural concepts in numerous ways
- Cross-curricular approach – evidence of using agricultural concepts to tie together multiple content areas
- Standards based – are agricultural learning activities aligned with TEKS, NGSS, or other established education standards (please provide specific examples)
- Critical thinking – aspects which encourage problem-solving by learners for a deeper understanding of agriculture
- Student impact – evidence of students' increased agriculture literacy, can be through formal or informal evaluation or other means

RELEASE TO USE PHOTOGRAPH(S), IMAGE(S) OR OTHER LIKENESS

I, _____, do permit and authorize Texas Farm Bureau, its affiliates, and its and their directors, officers, agents, and employees acting on its or their behalf, to use my photograph(s), image(s), video(s), and/or other likeness for purposes related to the educational and other missions of Texas Farm Bureau, including publicity, marketing and promotion of Texas Farm Bureau and its various programs, including the programs of its affiliates. I understand my photograph(s), image(s), video(s), and/or other likeness may be copied and distributed by means of Texas Farm Bureau's and/or its affiliates' publications, brochures, and any and all other media, including but not limited to placement on the Texas Farm Bureau website and/or the website(s) of its affiliates. I UNDERSTAND AND VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT THE POSSIBILITY OF UNCONSENTED-TO THIRD PARTY USE, ALTERATION OR REPUBLICATION, AND ACCORDINGLY, I RELEASE TEXAS FARM BUREAU, ITS AFFILIATES, AND ITS AND THEIR DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES, FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY RELATED TO THE PUBLICATION OF MY PHOTOGRAPH(S), IMAGE(S), VIDEO(S) AND/OR OTHER LIKENESS BY TEXAS FARM BUREAU AND/OR ITS AFFILIATES AND FROM THE UNCONSENTED-TO USE, ALTERATION, OR REPUBLICATION OF MY PHOTOGRAPH(S), IMAGE(S), VIDEO(S), AND/OR OTHER LIKENESS BY THIRD PARTIES.

I have read, understand, and intend to be bound by this Release.

Signature: _____

Date: _____