Texas Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher Award
Deadline: <u>September 20, 2021, at noon</u>

<u>What is Ag in the Classroom?</u>

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.

<u>The Award</u> –

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.

<u>Eligibility</u> –

- 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

<u>Selection</u> –

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.

<u>Prizes</u> –

The winning teacher will receive:

- $600 cash award
- Expenses paid to the 2022 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Saratogo Springs, New York on June 28-July 1, 2022
- 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

<u>Submission</u> –

- Each county Farm Bureau may nominate <u>one</u> teacher.
- **<u>Deadline for applications (including nominations) is September 20, 2021, at noon</u>.** County Farm Bureaus and applicants will be notified of judges' decision after October 20, 2021.
- 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.

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

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<u>Checklist</u> (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)
_____ **Exemplary lesson plan** (no more than six 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.

<u>Nomination Outline</u>

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, Narrative, & Exemplary Lesson Plan

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

Exemplary Lesson Plan – (No more than 6 pages)

Submit one lesson plan that illustrates your teaching methods that increases agricultural literacy among your students, as outlined in your narrative. Please cite sources when applicable.

Evaluation Criteria:

*   Use of standards-based, formal education practices
*   Lesson includes opportunities for students to think critically and problem solve to gain a greater understanding of agriculture and the topics it relates to such as math, science, social studies, reading, etc.

Lesson Should Include:

- Applicant's name
- Title of the lesson
- Purpose of the lesson
- Audience (grade level)
- Time length of lesson
- Objective of lesson
- Standards addressed in lesson
  - TEKS (please no more than one-half page)
  - National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes
    (https://cdn.agclassroom.org/nat/data/get/NALObooklet.pdf)
- Materials list
- Vocabulary
- Instructor Procedure
- Additional resources that enhance the lesson
- Assessment (list five essential questions that students should understand and be able to answer after completing the lesson)

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

Signature: _____

Date: _____