

AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Teachers :

If you would like to have Ag in the Classroom presented in your classroom, contact Brenda Raterink, Program Coordinator to learn more about the lessons and schedule a class visit.

Parents and Students:

Tell your teachers about Ag in the Classroom.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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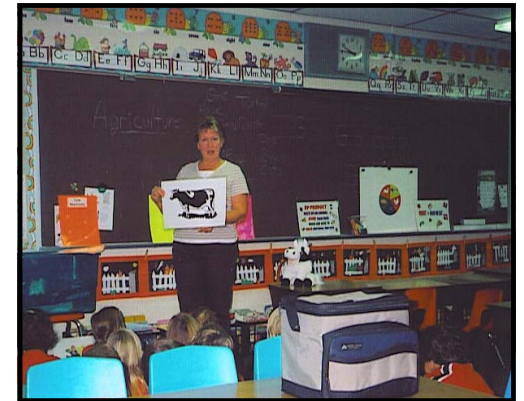
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AG IN THE CLASSROOM



A program for elementary school classrooms sponsored by



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“Ag in the Classroom”

Ottawa County is one of the most agriculture-intensive in the state, yet many children in the county grow up not knowing where the food they eat comes from, how it gets to their tables or how much of it comes from area farms and production facilities.

To address this concern, MSU Extension, the County of Ottawa and Ottawa County Farm Bureau teamed up to provide the “Ag in the Classroom” program to area elementary schools. The program was created to help educate future consumers about the importance of agriculture in Michigan and in their own lives.

Through “Ag in the Classroom,” MSU Extension program associate Brenda Raterink visits public and private schools throughout Ottawa County and offers lessons about various aspects of Michigan agriculture at no charge to those schools. The material presented was developed by Michigan Farm Bureau’s Promotion and Education Department and it meets state education curriculum standards. Concepts and information are presented using grade-appropriate, hands-on activities and visual aides. There are nine lesson plans available and most can be taught from kindergarten to fifth grade elementary school levels. Lesson plans can be customized to complement what the students are currently studying in science, social studies and math. Each school year, the program reaches about 4,000 children.

PROGRAMS OFFERED.....

1. **WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT SEEDS?**
A complete seed and plant unit, plant cycle and chance to plant seeds.
2. **FOOD AMAZING JOURNEY (ECON UNIT)**
An economic lesson on food’s journey from farm to consumer (MEAP) friendly. Two lessons.
A. Milk and Cows. (Great for lower grades).
B. Traditional unit of corn from seed to consumer. A food product is created in both units.
3. **DAIRY UNITS**
A. Farms
B. Dairy Nutrition
4. **ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**
A lesson about how farmers help the earth and how plants are used to make new products.
5. **MICHIGAN FOOD: FROM FARM TO YOU**
A unit on Michigan geography, products grown in certain areas and a touch of economics.
6. **THE GREAT FRUITS OF WEST MICHIGAN**
A lesson about fruit grown in West Michigan, uses maps, discusses seeds and plants, also plant sunflower seeds. A combination of science and social studies.



7. **AGRICULTURE - CYCLING BACK TO YOU**
A unit on ecosystems.
8. **HONEY BEES, CHICKENS AND COWS ...OH MY!**
A lesson on insects, birds and mammals, and the food products and by products they produce.
9. **HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE**
A simple geography unit about Michigan products. Play a guessing game with products in bags and place stickers on map to show products in Michigan.



About the Instructor...

Brenda Raterink has been the Ag in the Classroom instructor since the program began in 2002. Brenda has a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University in Agricultural Economics and she brings a lifetime of agricultural experience to the position. She and her family run a dairy farm in Ottawa County.