

New York Agriculture in the Classroom

Agriculture Literacy Week

March 15th-19th, 2010



 Cornell Agricultural Outreach and Education

WHAT IS NY AG LITERACY WEEK?

New York Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to announce NY Ag Literacy Week in support of its mission of fostering awareness, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture and the food and fiber system. During the week of March 15th-19th (National Ag Week), volunteers throughout the state will go into classrooms to read a book with an agricultural theme, lead an activity based on the book and talk to students about agriculture. The book will be donated to the school library with a special bookplate recognizing the donor and **NY Ag Literacy Week**.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

Partners and sponsors to date include:

- New York Agriculture in the Classroom
- NY Farm Bureau
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- NYS Department of Ag & Markets
- NYS Education Department
- Cornell Farm to School Program
- NYS Agricultural Educators and FFA
- NYFarms!
- LEAD NY

Let us know if you are interested in becoming a partner or sponsor.

Please help us foster agricultural literacy and educate students about the significance of our food and fiber system by participating in **NY Ag Literacy Week**. We are asking our friends throughout New York's agriculture industry and food system to volunteer to go into a local elementary classroom, read the designated book, lead an activity and talk to students about the importance of New York agriculture to their daily lives.

THE BOOK:

The designated book for 2010 is *The Tree Farmer* written by Chuck Leavell and Nicholas Cravotta. This is a beautifully illustrated book that highlights the Timber Industry. *The Tree Farmer* was featured as the 2008 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference and won the National Arbor Day Foundation 2007 Book of the Year award.

GRADE LEVEL:

We are targeting second grade classrooms. If it works better in a particular school, it could be read in first or third grade as an alternative. Ideally, reading will take place at the classroom level so there is an opportunity for students to ask questions and participate in discussion.

HOW WILL THE EVENT BE FUNDED?

We are currently seeking funding to purchase books and will be seeking product donations for related activities. Supplemental activities will be funded on the local level.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- **SPONSORS AND PARTNERS** - If you would like to help with state-level planning or publicity, or become a sponsor or partner, please contact Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Heather Davis. A sponsor might provide materials, funding for books, or product donations. Partner organizations will help publicize the event, provide local coordination, and/or recruit readers.
- **COUNTY COORDINATOR** – We will designate a coordinator or co-coordinators in each county. This person will help promote the event, recruit readers, handle books, and provide a communications link with schools and readers.
- **TEACHERS** – If you are interested in having someone read in your classroom, contact the designated County Coordinator or NY Ag in the Classroom. A list of county coordinators will be posted on the NYAITC web site at www.nyaged.org.
- **READERS** – If you can volunteer to be a reader, contact your local school/schools to make sure they will be able to accommodate a visit and then send in the Volunteer Reader form and you will be contacted with more information. It is your responsibility to schedule the visit with the school.

If you have questions, please direct them to Heather Davis. Heather can be contacted at hed24@cornell.edu or 607-255-9253. Forms and information will be available at the NYAITC web site at www.nyaged.org/aitc

WHAT OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES CAN BE PLANNED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?

- Involve the local Dairy Princess or Ambassador
- Invite FFA or 4-H members to bring tools or products into the classroom
- Organize an Ag Field Day or field trip to a local farm (most likely later in the spring)
- Use Ag Week materials to plan additional activities, (www.agday.org)
- Plan a special day for Arbor Day Friday, April 20th, 2010 (www.arborday.org/)
- Additional activities will be made available on the NYATC website (www.nysaged.org)

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

NY Ag Literacy Day web page	County Coordinator Calendar	Ag Week materials
Reader guidelines	Additional lessons for teachers	Press release template to use locally
Publicity ideas	Letter to school administrator	Lesson plan and activities

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