MONTH BY MONTH PRIMARY AG STUDY
INTEGRATING AG INTO THE K-1 CURRICULUM

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MY BACKGROUND

Born and raised in West Central Indiana (Midwest)

Attended Purdue University studying Elementary Education

Graduated in 2003 from Purdue

Taught past 15 years in two school corporations (1st, K, 3rd)

Began involvement in Farm Bureau as a Young Farmer in my 30’s

Served on Young Farmer State Committee for Indiana

Learned about Ag in the Classroom while on YF Committee, Attended a Summer Workshop to be trained for Indiana AITC

Attended National Conferences in Arizona, Kansas City

2017-18 Received a CHS grant for Embryology
GOAL AS A TEACHER:

My students will leave knowing a bit about where their food and products used daily come from and have a curiosity and interest to learn more about Agriculture as they grow! Bonus* Sometimes they teach their parents/grownups something new, too!
HOW DO I INTEGRATE AG INTO MY PRIMARY AGE CLASSROOM?

Creating Monthly Ag Focus Themes – At least 15-30 minutes daily for 2 weeks, continue to expand each year

Connecting Focus Theme to curriculum standards for literacy, science, social studies, & math

Going on Ag Related Field Trip Dull’s Tree Farm - Pumpkin Harvest; 2018 Lawson's Farm – Great Review of Ag Themes Throughout Year

Securing Ag Related Guest Speakers – Orchard Owner, Beekeeper, etc.

Finding Great Ag Theme Read Aloud Books both Fiction and Nonfiction & Video Clips

2018 – Grant from CHS to purchase items for hatching eggs in our classroom

FOCUS: A Composition Notebook is used to collect ag knowledge throughout the year and this piece goes home at the end of the year and is a review of all the topics we covered at a glance.
MONTHLY THEMES FOR AG LEARNING

Each theme lasts between 2 and 3 weeks with lessons from 15-30 minutes. Themes can be changed to meet the region you teach in or used to cover a variety of regions across the USA or globe.
AUGUST/EARLY SEPTEMBER

Intro to Agriculture

What is Ag?

Why is learning about Ag important?

Key Concepts:
1. A farmer grows plants and raises animals that are used for our food, fuel, and fiber.
2. Many of the items we use everyday originate on a farm.
3. Agricultural products provide for our daily needs—food, clothing, and shelter.

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

• My Farm Web (K-2)
• Animal or Plant (K-2)
INTRO TO FARM BOOKS

Otis – Loren Long

Pete the Cat Old Mac Donald Had a Farm – James Dean

Mrs. Wishy Washy’s Farm – Joy Cowley

Jobs on a Farm (World of Learning) – Nancy Dickmann

Farming – Gail Gibbons

A Day in the Life of a Farmer – Heather Adamson

On the Farm – David Elliot

Food from Farms (World of Learning) – Nancy Dickmann

Farm – Elisha Cooper
SEPTEMBER

Apples and Orchards

Key Concepts:

1. Apples grow from seed, to seedling, to tree, to blossom, to fruitlet, to fruit (apple). Apple Lifecycle

2. There are many kinds of apples and each tastes different and apples can be used differently.

3. Apples have an important place in our history.

Taste Test Types & Graphing

Favorite Apple Item Writing

Life Cycle of an Apple, Song, Parts of an Apple

Apple Harvesting, Packing

Johnny Appleseed Research (Brain Pop Jr. Video)

Make Applesauce

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

• A is for Apples (K-2)
APPLE BOOKS

How to Eat an Apple Pie and See the World – Marjorie Priceman
Johnny Appleseed – Steven Kellogg
Apple Harvest – Calvin Harris
Apples & The Seasons of Arnold’s Apple Tree – Gail Gibbons
How Do Apples Grow? – Betsy Maestro
Ten Apples Up on Top – Dr. Seuss
Bad Apple, A Tale of Friendship – Edward Hemingway
The Apple Orchard Riddle – Margaret McNamara
Apples – Melvin and Gilda Berger
A Day at the Apple Orchard – Megan Faulkner
OCTOBER

Pumpkins

Key Concepts:

1. Pumpkin lifecycle.
2. Pumpkins can be used in many ways.
3. Parts of a pumpkin plant and parts of a pumpkin.

Pumpkin Life Cycle

Pumpkin Investigation (Math)

Pumpkin Plate Craft

Field Trip to Dull’s Farm – Pumpkin Harvest

“Five Little Pumpkins” Poem

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

• Pumpkins…Not Just for Halloween (K-2)
PUMPKIN BOOKS

How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin? —
Margaret McNamara
Pumpkin Pumpkin — Jeanne Titherington
The Legend of Spookley the Square
Pumpkin — Joe Troiano
Pumpkin Jack — Will Hubbell
The Runaway Pumpkin — Kevin Lewis
The Pumpkin Book — Gail Gibbons
From Seed to Pumpkin — Jan Kottke
Little Boo — Stephen Wunderli
Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin Pie — Jill Esbaum
November
Row Crops/ Harvest

Focus on Corn, Wheat, Soybeans

Key Concepts:
1. Uses for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat food and other.
2. How crops are planted and cared for while growing.
3. How crops are harvested. Corn, Soybeans, Wheat

Machinery Used for Planting

Machinery Used for Harvest

Ways Corn, Soybeans, and Wheat are used

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

• Little Red Hen (K-2)
• Bean Seed Cycle (K-2)

*I also do a day or two on Cranberries near Thanksgiving.
CROP BOOKS

From Kernel to Corncob – Eileen Weiss
Goodnight Tractor – Michelle Robinson
World of Farming, Plants on a Farm
The Biography of Wheat – Jennifer Lackley
Corn is Maize – Aliki
Corn – Gail Gibbons
Coolbean the Soybean – Shawn Conley
John Deere, That's Who – Tracy Nelson Mauer
Fall Harvests: Bringing in Food – Martha E. H. Rustad
DECEMBER

Christmas Trees

Key Concepts:
1. Care of trees, amount of time to grow.
2. Types of Trees, deciduous and coniferous.

Care of Christmas Trees
Lifecycle of Christmas Tree
History of Tradition

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

• Discovering Christmas Trees K-2
CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas Tree Farm – Anne Purmell
The Christmas Eve Tree – Delia Huddy
Christmas Farm – Mary Lyn Ray
Night Tree – Eve Bunting

Dull's Christmas Tree Video
JANUARY

Where Our Food Comes from in Winter…

Key Concepts:

1. Fruits and vegetables are grown all over the world.
2. We depend on others to get what we want/need. Growing and transportation.
3. Exploring regions and products.

Products from Other Places and Preservation

Regions/Geography

Transportation – how products get to us

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

- Source Search (K-2)
- Who Grew My Soup (K-2)
- Fruits of Our Labor (K-2)
WHERE FOOD COMES FROM (PLANT FOCUS)

An Orange in January – Dianna Hutts Aston
From Oranges to Orange Juice – Kristin Keller
How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? – Chris Butterworth
Who Grew My Soup? – Tom Darbyshire
The Vegetables We Eat – Gail Gibbons
Growing Vegetable Soup – Lois Ehlert

Where does food come from?

Some food comes from plants.

Some food comes from animals.
FEBRUARY

Farm Animals

Key Concepts:

1. Types of animals that live on farms and types of farms.
2. Products and uses for farm animals.
3. Names for animals (terminology)

FFA Petting Zoo/Farm Visit (Spring)

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

- Animal Life Cycles (K-2)
- Farm Animal Match (K-2)
- This Little Pig (K-2)
- Pigs on the Farm (K-2)
- Milk or Meat? Beef or Dairy (K-2)
FARM ANIMALS
The Milkmakers – Gail Gibbons
Pigs – Gail Gibbons
Cows and Their Calves (Pebble Plus Series) – Margaret Hall
Beef Cattle The Story of Agriculture – Susan Anderson
Farm Animals – Wade Cooper
Horse Life Cycle – Eric Charlesworth
Turkeys on the Farm – Mari C. Schuh
“Animals on the Farm” Series
Hooray for Sheep Farming – Bobbie Kalman
(Hooray for Farming Series)

Pig Farm Video
Where Does Milk Come From? Video
MARCH

Plants and Seeds

Key Concepts:

1. Seeds grow new plants; what seeds need to grow.

2. Plants have different parts.

3. Plants must exist for humans to live.

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

- Dig Em Up (K-2)
- Eat Em Up (K-2)
- Eating Plants (K-2)
- Farming in a Glove (K-2)
- How Does Your Garden Grow (K-2)
- Plant Tops and Bottoms (K-2)

*I also cover Maple Trees=Maple Syrup and Process for Making Syrup

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix

- Pancakes (1-2)
FLOWERS/SEEDS

The Tiny Seed – Eric Carle
From Seed to Plant – Gail Gibbons
How a Seed Grows – Helene Jordan
Oh Say Can You Seed? – Bonnie Worth
The Carrot Seed – Ruth Krauss
Tops and Bottoms – Janet Stevens
Roots, Leaves, Flowers, Stems (Pebble Plus Series) – Vijaya Bodach
APRIL

Chickens/Eggs/Chicks/Hatching

Key Concepts:
1. Incubation, chick development.
2. Egg production, travel, products.

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix
- Inside the Egg, Hatching Chicks (K-2)
- From Chicken Little to Chicken Big (K-2)
- Eggs from Hen to Home (K-2)
- Eggology (K-2)
CHICKENS

Chester the Chick – Jane Burton
Chicks and Chickens – Gail Gibbons
Hatching Chicks in Room 6 – Caroline Arnold
Chicks! – Sandra Horning
Let’s Hatch Chicks – Lisa Steele
Sonya’s Chickens – Phoebe Wahl
A Kid’s Guide to Keeping Chickens – Melissa Caughey
All About Eggs from Magic to Market – Utah Ag in the Classroom Video
MAY

Bees/Butterflies (Pollinators)

Key Concepts:
1. Pollinators are necessary for plants to reproduce.
2. Bees/Butterflies body parts, lifecycle.
3. Pollination process, types of bees, jobs.

Bee/Butterfly Body Parts
Guest Speaker - Beekeeper
Watching Lifecycle of Butterfly/Releasing

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix
- How Does Your Garden Grow (K-2)
- Fabulous Flowers (K-2)
Butterflies/Bees

Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle
Butterflies – Laura Marsh
Gotta Go! Gotta Go! – Sam Swope
The Beeman – Laurie Krebbs
National Geographic Kids Bees – Laura Marsh
The Honeymakers – Gail Gibbons
RESOURCES

National Ag in the Classroom Matrix

TpT – Teachers Pay Teachers (Freebies)

Brain Pop Jr. Videos

PebblePlus Book Series (Fantastic Pictures)

ADDITIONAL MONTHLY TOPIC IDEAS??

Thanks so much for coming! Please feel free to contact me with questions!

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