

ND Ag in the Classroom Mini-Grant Program
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Press Release (for immediate release)

October 2, 2009

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Ag in the Classroom Funds 32 Programs

Bismarck - The North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Council, working with the North Dakota FFA Foundation, awarded \$10,000 worth of grant funds to thirty-two programs who will promote agriculture literacy.

This grant program was designed to offer funds for agriculturally related projects, units, and lessons used for school-age children. The grants will fund hands-on activities which will develop and enrich understanding of agriculture as the source of food and/or fiber in our society

Grants were awarded to the following organizations, institutions, and schools: Berthold FFA, Bishop Ryan High School in Minot, Bottineau FFA, Burleigh County 4-H Hippology, Burlington/Des Lacs Elementary School, Central Cass Elementary in Casselton, Century Elementary School in Grand Forks, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (Mid Dakota Chapter) in Bowbells, Grimsrud Elementary School in Bismarck, Hettinger County Extension Office, Kindred FFA, Louis L'Amour Elementary in Jamestown, Maddock FFA, Manvel Public School, Minot FFA, Mountrail County Extension, ND FFA Foundation, ND Stockmen's Association, New Rockford/Sheyenne FFA, Parshall FCCLA, Parshall High School, Pembina County Extension Service, Ransom County Extension Service, Rolette Public School, Rolla FFA, Roosevelt Elementary School in Bismarck, Scranton FFA, Oakes FFA, Southeast Region Career and Technology Center in Oakes, Towner FFA, Walsh County Extension Service, and Williston FFA.

Funds for this project were appropriated by the 2009 North Dakota Legislature.

The ND Ag in the Classroom's mission is to cultivate an understanding of the interrelationship of agriculture, the environment, and people by integrating agriculture into K-12 education.

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A synopsis of the programs receiving funds is following and on the website at <http://www.ndaginclassroom.com/minigrant.htm>

The 2009 ND Ag in the Classroom Mini Grant Program 32 Projects Funded

Berthold FFA, Berthold (funded at \$150 towards curriculum materials). The FFA members will run a Farm Safety Unit and a Food Safety Unit with 3-6th graders.

Bishop Ryan High School, Minot (funded at \$100 for cooking materials) – Students in foods classes will learn about foods raised in ND. They will prepare dishes using the Food, Land, and People curriculum.

Bottineau FFA, Bottineau (funded at \$180 for coloring books) – The Bottineau FFA Chapter will teach first grade students about the ND products used to make a cheeseburger.

Burleigh County 4-H Hippology, Menoken (funded at \$250 towards supplies and awards) – In October the team will hold a horse judging contest to educate youth on equine science and the equine industry.

Burlington/Des Lacs Elementary, Burlington (funded at \$250 for ag books) – Kindergarteners will learn about vegetables grown in ND. They will go on a field trip to Valley Vegetables and then read books about agriculture.

Central Cass Elementary, Casselton (funded at \$200 for educational packets and materials) – Students in the 4th grade will visit a sunflower plant, an ethanol plant and an elevator. They will use the knowledge of ND businesses to put together a booklet on ND

Century Elementary School, Grand Forks (funded at \$400 for rental of historical ag trunk, wheat grinder, and dehydrator) – Fourth grade students will learn about agriculture and farm life in ND.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, Mid Dakota Chapter in Bowbells (funded at \$500 towards ATV helmets) – The Farm Safety 4 Just Kids Chapter will be holding an ATV Safety Class. Besides safety and laws, the class stresses being aware and considerate of the environment when riding an ATV.

Grimsrud Elementary, Bismarck (funded at \$300 for supplies) – First grade students will learn about the food pyramid, about making healthy choices, and about food produced from ND crops. They will also visit a dairy farm.

Hettinger County Extension Office, Mott (funded at \$250 for handouts and materials) - A farm safety camp will be held with fifth and sixth grade students. Students will be exposed to eight different safety sessions in a hands-on effort to let them see the dangers that are possible with each machine.

Kindred FFA, Kindred (funded at \$435 for materials) – FFA members will build garden boxes, and help elementary students plant vegetable seeds in them.

Louis L'Amour Elementary, Jamestown (funded at \$400 for plant supplies) – Elementary students will gain an understanding and appreciation for plant life and how it relates to ND agriculture when they plant seeds and watch them grow into plants.

Maddock FFA, Maddock (funded at \$350 for supplies) – The Maddock FFA Chapter will teach elementary students from Maddock, Oberon and Four Winds about crops and livestock. They will also teach students about farm safety.

Manvel Public School, Manvel (funded at \$225 for admission cost and supplies) – Students will take a field trip to Nelson's Pumpkin Patch and learn about ND plants, animals, and farm equipment.

Minot FFA, Minot (funded at \$400 for supplies to make mini terrariums) – FFA students will teach 700 Community Learning Center students about ND agriculture. Students will get hands-on experience in building a terrarium and understand how plants form their own ecosystem.

Mountrail County Extension, Stanley (funded at \$500 for kit supplies). The extension staff will create Take and Teach kits and Train the Trainer sessions for teachers, volunteers, and extension staff so the kits can be used to teach youth about agriculture in their lives.

ND FFA Foundation, Bismarck (funded at \$200 for awards) – The ND FFA Foundation will use the grant funds towards the Food for America Program. The purpose of the Food for America Program is to help introduce first through six-grade students to the fascinating world of agriculture and to make elementary students more aware of the world of agriculture and how it affects their daily lives.

ND Stockmen's Association, Bismarck (funded at \$400) -- Funds will be used to fund the Carcass Merit Program at the Junior Beef Expo Field Day in Williston. The purpose of the contest is to allow juniors the opportunity to determine the carcass qualities and economic value of their market steer through ultrasound technology and marketing grids.

New Rockford/Sheyenne FFA, New Rockford (funded at \$300 for educational materials) – FFA members will teach elementary students about crop production. They will do presentations on crops' life cycles, direct and indirect costs of farming, and products grown in ND.

Parshall FCCLA, Parshall (funded at \$340 for gardening supplies) Students will learn that growing vegetables and flowers requires knowledge and skill but also provides them with enjoyment and a sense of pride.

Parshall High School, Parshall (funded at \$370 towards a light cart) Students will learn about horticulture while they learn practical knowledge of planting and plant growth, care of plants, watering, transplanting, etc.

Pembina County Extension, Cavalier (funded at \$400 towards lesson supplies) Students in kindergarten through fourth grade classes will focus on ag production using a caterpillar theme. They will learn about ag commodities and where they come from with an emphasis on Midwest and ND production.

Ransom County Extension Service, Lisbon (funded at \$75 for supplies) – Enderlin elementary students will learn about food products grown in ND and about farm animals. Activities will include making and tasting foods made with ND products.

Rolette Public School, Rolette (funded at \$400 for materials) – High school students will work on fixing the greenhouse at the school in order for them to be able to learn about horticulture.

Rolla FFA, Rolla (funded at \$250 for books) – FFA members will read books about agriculture to elementary school students.

Roosevelt Elementary School, Bismarck (funded at \$170 for books, admission, and pumpkins) Students will learn about pumpkins as fruits and food sources. The project will provide a variety of curriculum links in math, science, language arts, social studies, cooking, music, and art.

Scranton FFA, Scranton (funded at \$385 towards ag literacy books) – FFA members will teach third and fourth grade students about agriculture life through a series of ag literacy books.

Southeast Region Career and Technology Center - Oakes FFA, Oakes (funded at \$250 for curriculum) – The greenhouse at Oakes lost many plants due to chemical problems with the city water and are looking for materials and plants to overcome this setback.

Southeast Region Career and Technology Center – Oakes (funded at \$350 for soil testing equipment) – Soil testing equipment will be purchased and travel as part of a mobile unit to Lisbon, Oakes, Wahpeton, Wyndmere, Colfax, Lidgerwood, and Forman. Student will learn about plant identification, plant and soil requirements, plant types, leaf types, root systems, plant diseases, etc.

Towner FFA, Towner (funded at \$340 for heating mats) – Students in the horticulture class will be directly involved with soil preparation, planting of seeds, and care of plants. Radishes and tomatoes will be planted.

Walsh County Extension Service, Park River (funded at \$480 for a rabbit kit) –The Rabbit Learning Lab Kit will be used in Walsh County and Northeastern ND to increase the knowledge level and production competency of young people who are raising rabbits for 4-H, FFA, food and fun.

Williston FFA, Williston (funded at \$400 towards soil testing materials) – Students will learn the importance of soil by taking soil samples and testing it; they will learn how to manage soil to grow crops, fruits, vegetables and lawns; and they will also learn about soil erosion.