

ND Ag in the Classroom Mini-Grant Program
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Ag in the Classroom Funds 36 Programs

Bismarck - The North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Council, working with the North Dakota FFA Foundation, awarded over \$11,000 worth of grant funds to thirty-six programs that 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 that 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: Afterschool Place in Bismarck, Bishop Ryan High School in Minot, Bottineau FFA, Burlington/Des Lacs Elementary in Burlington, Central Cass Elementary in Casselton, Farm and Home Improvement 4-H Club in Maddock, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (Mid Dakota Chapter in Bowbells), Farming Around in Harwood, Fessenden Bowdon Public School in Fessenden, TGU Granville FFA, Hettinger County Extension Office in Mott, Kindred FFA, Lisbon High School, Louis L'Amour Elementary in Jamestown, Magic City Campus in Minot, Menoken School (3 programs), Minot FFA, Children's Montessori Center in Fargo, Mouse River Loop Environthon in Mohall, ND FFA Foundation in Bismarck, ND Stockmen's Association in Bismarck, ND Women Involved in Farm Economics, Oakes Sargent County FFA in Oakes, Ramsey County Family Nutrition Program in Devils Lake, Ransom County Extension Service in Lisbon (2 programs), Richland 44 FFA in Colfax, Riverside Elementary in Bismarck, South Heart School, SRCTC in Oakes, Standing Rock/Fort Yates Community School in Fort Yates, Turtle Lake Mercer School in Turtle Lake, and Zeller Day Care in Hazen.

Forty programs applied for funding, seeking in excess of \$20,000 for this grant period.

Funds for this project were appropriated by the 2007 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>

Programs Funded with the Ag in the Classroom Grants

The Afterschool Place, Bismarck (funded at \$450 for video recorder, DVD distribution, and supplies) – Forty-nine students will keep a video diary of the dairy production learning experience. They will go to a dairy operation, cheese processing plant, a grocery store and a bakery. The video diary will be broadcast on Community Access Television.

Bishop Ryan High School, Minot (funded at \$200 for meat) – Students in foods classes will learn about meat raised in North Dakota. The 45 students will visit a ranch and they will learn to cook lamb, buffalo, veal, beef, pork and venison.

Bottineau FFA, Bottineau (funded at \$240 for coloring books) – The Bottineau FFA Chapter will teach first and second grade students about the ND products used to make a cheeseburger. Eighty students will learn about agriculture in the state.

Burleigh County Horse Judging Team, Menoken (not funded) – In Sept., the team will hold a horse judging clinic to educate youth on equine science and the equine industry.

Burlington/Des Lacs Elementary, Burlington (funded at \$340 for an American Agritech Garden Aero 8) – Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will learn about hydroponics as it relates to plant science, plant nutrition, plant physiology, plant care, nutrient and PH testing and agriculture with the help of local FFA members. Students in grades 4th and 5th will extend their outdoor garden plot.

Central Cass Elementary, Casselton (funded at \$500 for books, grow light, wheat grinder, and grain barn) – Students in the 4th grade will learn about various aspects of ND agriculture during the unit on ND. Lessons on crops and food products, soil erosion, and plant growth will be presented.

Farm and Home Improvement 4-H Club, Maddock (funded at \$50 for ND products) – Thirty students in the 4-H Club will work with ND products to make cookies. They will learn the origins of the products, where they are grown, and what form it takes in ND fields.

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.

Farming Around, Harwood (funded at \$200 for supplies and worksheets) – Farming Around is a hands-on program to introduce first through third graders to agriculture around their schools. The goal is to reach 5 schools to help students gain awareness of six crops grown, animals raised, equipment used, and the role of local farmers in their communities.

Fessenden Bowdon Public School, Fessenden (funded at \$500 for GPS units) – FFA students will work with first and second grade students to teach them how to use GPS units, using curriculum provided by Bismarck State College. Students will also visit a farm and a machinery tour where they will learn about tractor safety and an elevator to learn about how GPS units help to apply chemicals.

Four Winds Tribal School, Fort Totten (not funded) – The project will expose school age children to the many varied aspects of what farming does for the population in terms of producing food and many other important environmental management processes. Other aspects of native food and nutrition will be studied.

TGU Granville FFA, Granville (funded at \$650 for planting equipment) – Students from the agricultural education classes will use a rototiller to help them in the school garden and with landscaping around the school. Produce from the school garden is used to improve the hot lunch program.

Hettinger County Extension Office, Mott (not funded) - 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. An Ag in the Classroom Day will also be held where students will learn about products raised in North Dakota.

Hettinger County Extension Office, Mott (funded at \$200 towards supplies) – Charlotte Meier will visit schools to spread the word about the benefits of eating healthy. She will work with youth and adults to help them become more aware of the need for fruits, vegetables, protein, and whole grains in their diets. The presentation will also cover where foods are grown, how they are processed, and how to use nutrition labels. Up to 200 students will be reached.

Kindred FFA, Kindred (funded at \$400 for supplies for cases) – FFA members will build visual models which will show the process of wheat milling and animal processing. FFA members will work with elementary students to build the models.

Lisbon High School, Lisbon (funded at \$450 for a dehydrator, meat grinder and other equipment) – Students will learn how to process meat. They will cut and use a dehydrator to make jerky from deer.

Louis L'Amour Elementary, Jamestown (funded at \$320 for books and curriculum) – The purpose of the small animal project is to promote awareness about the concepts of responsible pet ownership. Vet care, potential careers in this industry and related services of small animal care as they relate to agriculture will also be a focus.

Magic City Campus, Minot (funded at \$500 towards equipment for the project) – Students will increase their knowledge of alternative fuels in the transportation industry by building a hydrogen-powered vehicle. The students in the automotive technology students and electronics classes will also learn about the area of alternative fuels within agriculture.

Menoken School, Menoken (funded at \$100 for ND food products) – Students will take a field trip and learn about ND products and the business aspects of farming. Students will learn about ND products and how they are marketed and sold.

Menoken School, Menoken (funded at \$100 towards pumpkins, admission fees and food products) – Students will take a field trip to Papa's Pumpkin Patch and learn about how they are grown, the history of pumpkins, and uses. Students will make pies or bread using pumpkin meat.

Menoken School, Menoken (funded at \$80 for recycling bins) – Students will learn about pollution and its effects on the environment. Students will learn about recycling and start recycling paper, newspaper, cardboard, plastics, and other items in the school.

Minot FFA, Minot (funded at \$265 for display boards and samples of ND products) – FFA students will teach 700 Community Learning Center students about ND agriculture. In the fall, lessons will include teaching students about four products that are grown, manufactured, and sold in our state.

Children's Montessori Center, Fargo (funded at \$350 for planting supplies, books, and posters) – Students will learn about caring for young plants, caring for soil and caring for garden spaces. They will also learn about vegetables and flowers and planting seasons.

Mouse River Loop Environthon, Mohall (funded at \$300 for the supplies) – High school students are invited to participate in the Mouse River Loop Environthon. This event is a regional program where teams of high school students work on environmental issues. The students are tested on topics such as soils, forestry, wildlife, water, rangeland, and biodiversity.

ND FFA Foundation, Bismarck (funded at \$200 to fund 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. There are 77 FFA chapters in the state, and each FFA chapter has an opportunity to be a part of this program. Many schools hold more than one activity with students to educate them about ND agriculture during the year.

ND Stockmen's Association, Bismarck (funded at \$500) -- 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.

ND Women Involved in Farm Economics, Regent (funded at \$200 towards printing costs) – ND WIFE members will design a placemat with games and facts about ND products. They will distribute the placemats to approximately 1100 students in the SW corner of the state and schools in the NE corner of the state.

Oakes/SC FFA, Oakes (funded at \$500 towards ATV helmets) – FFA members will host an ATV safety day.

Ramsey County Family Nutrition Program, Devils Lake (funded at \$465 towards food supplies) – Middle school students, 4-H members, and WIC clients will learn about the health benefits of whole grains grown in ND. An extension agent will teach students about the role of ND farming in producing ND food.

Ransom County Extension Service, Lisbon (funded at \$75 for ND products) – Students will learn about grains that farmers in ND grow and food products made from those grains. The students will also learn about farm animals.

Ransom County Extension Service, Lisbon (funded at \$280 for materials) – A Farm Safety Day will be planned for the spring for fifth and sixth grade students. Topics will include farm safety, sun safety, ATV safety, and lawn mower safety.

Ransom County Extension Service, Lisbon (funded at \$280 for materials) – Fourth grade students will learn about ND commodities through a Harvest ND day.

Richland 44 FFA, Colfax (funded at \$550 for production of CDs of curriculum) – Teachers will develop curriculum for food science and distribute the curriculum to all Family and Consumer Science teachers and ag education teachers in the state.

Riverside Elementary, Bismarck (funded at \$200 for books, ND products, and supplies) – First grade students will learn about the food pyramid, making healthy choices, and about ND crops. Students will visit a local dairy farm, make bread, and create a book on their new knowledge.

South Heart School, South Heart (funded at \$270 towards food, planting equipment, and seeds) – FFA members will teach lessons on dairy foods, horticulture, and fruit production to fifth and sixth grade students.

SRCTC, Oakes (funded at \$450 for curriculum materials) – Students from five different schools will be invited to attend an Ag Activities Day where they will learn about ag careers in food science, ag mechanics, floriculture/nursery, and livestock.

Standing Rock/Fort Yates Community School, Fort Yates (funded at \$125 for planting supplies) – Students will plant seeds in incubators in the science labs and study the growth patterns and development of the plants.

Turtle Lake Mercer School, Turtle Lake (funded at \$460 towards curriculum kit and supplies) – Students will research alternative energy and the processes it takes to make alternative energy. Students will produce ethanol and biodiesel using materials they will bring from farms.

Wing Public School, Wing (not funded) – Students attended Big Iron to learn about advancement in farm products and potential employment opportunities in agriculture.

Zeller Day Care, Hazen (funded at \$250) – Students will plant seeds and learn about plant growth. They will also learn about farm facts.