Lending Library new to our AITC Program

New this school year is the Ag in the Classroom lending library. Our lending library is full of books that relate to agriculture, and educator guides designed to simulate appropriate discussion and to extend student learning beyond the book content itself. The books and suggested activities, lessons and resources offer easy connections to many curricular areas.

The lending library will be housed on the Ag in the Classroom website at www.nd.gov/ndda/ag-classroom/ag-classroom-lending-library.

Books will be listed according to students Grades K-2 and 3-5. There are fiction and nonfiction books that focus on a wide variety of topics representing agricultural plants and animals, food and natural resources. More instructions can be found online.

AITC Calendar Update

Many teachers and students may be wondering where the Ag in the Classroom Calendar is? The funding for this pilot project has changed, so we are actually looking to print for the 2018 year. Our hope is to have this distributed in December to help ring in the New Year!

Thank you again for your patience and support in our pilot project, we can’t wait to get this distributed into your classrooms across the state.

SugarBeet FarmChat

These days, most children have little or no knowledge about where their food comes from. Visiting farms is one of the most tangible ways to reconnect students with agriculture, coaching a new generation’s interactions with the food system.

Farm Chat is a unique program that utilizes technology (Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, Facebook and other software platforms) to bring the farm experience directly to the classroom. Using a laptop at the school and mobile device at the farm, students connect with and directly speak with the farmer. Students can see the farmer and ask the farmer questions and even virtually ride along in the combine or tour a livestock barn, all from the safety and security of their classroom.

If you are interested in learning more about sugarbeet harvest and watch the harvest in process, contact Ashley Stegeman at astegeman@nd.gov to set up a FarmChat for your classroom!

FFA Mini Grants — OPEN

Let your imagination be your guide as you design an exciting project to enhance agricultural education for North Dakota students inside or outside of the classroom.

The North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Council, working with the North Dakota FFA Foundation, is offering mini-grants of up to $500 for use in programs that promote agricultural literacy.

This grant program is designed to offer funds for agriculturally related projects, units and lessons used for school-age children. The mini-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.

Click here to download the application and apply now at bit.ly/2017ndffa.

Anyone can apply! Applications are due September 21 to tmaddock@ndffa.org.

AITC Professional Development

Are you a fifth- through eighth-grade teacher, counselor, agricultural educator, or an after-school coordinator looking for a professional development opportunity? Check out this great opportunity on Friday, September 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop will be held at Farm Credit Services of Mandan.

We will dive into Journey 2050, Ag Today and Ag Explorer with hands-on labs accompany each lesson! Teachers will receive free teacher and student materials, interactive demonstrations of classroom activities and web-based learning tools. ECU is available through University of North Dakota.

For more information or to register at check out this link: www.escweb.net/nd_mrec/catalog/session.aspx?