



Florida Agriculture  
in the Classroom, Inc.  
AGRICULTURE KEEPS  
FLORIDA GREEN

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**FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM AWARDS  
22 VOLUNTEER GRANTS FOR 2009**

**GAINESVILLE** – Students will learn about Florida agriculture by growing produce they will use in their culinary class, participating in an embryology project and investigating soil and fertilizer composition, among several projects funded by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom’s 2009 Volunteer Grants program.

The non-profit organization based in Gainesville chose 22 projects for funding that will spend nearly \$29,000 and reach more than 12,000 students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade around the state. Organizations that will receive funding for these projects include University of Florida/IFAS county extension and 4-H offices, middle school and high school agri-science programs, local fairs and other non-profit associations.

“These grant projects are a great way to help agriculture industry volunteers educate Florida students about the importance of Florida agriculture,” said Vina Jean Banks, Chairman and Florida Beef Council Representative for Florida Agriculture in the Classroom and Director of Agribusiness for the Florida State Fair in Tampa.

“It allows Florida Agriculture in the Classroom to leverage the Ag Tag dollars it receives to reach even more teachers and students,” said Banks, referring to the agriculture specialty license plate which is Florida Agriculture in the Classroom’s sole source of funding.

The 2009 Volunteer Grant projects selected for funding are as follows:

1. **“Gardening at Jinks”** – Students at Jinks Middle School in Panama City in Bay County will learn about Florida agriculture by tending a schoolyard/classroom garden project organized by their agri-science teacher.
2. **“Palm Bay Teaching Garden and Outdoor Classroom”** – Brevard County 4-H will grow a garden at its extension office to be used as an outdoor classroom for its 4-H students.
3. **“Seed to Table Gardening Project”** – Youth Environmental Alliance will plant a garden at Coral Glades High School in Broward County in which students will use its commodities in a culinary class and learn the importance of locally produced fruits and vegetables.
4. **“Spread Your Wings Embryology Program”** – Clay County 4-H will expand its popular embryology program to private schools, home schools and daycare programs.

5. **“Behind the Swinging Door: Just where does the Food on my Table come from?”** – Duval County Farm Bureau will extend the lesson from “These Florida Farms!” to include the commodities that are mentioned in the Florida Agriculture Literacy Day book.
6. **“Growing a Pizza”** – Students in Escambia County will visit a summer day camp at a 4-H center where they will learn about the commodities grown to make a pizza.
7. **“Flagler County Ag Ventures”** – More than twice the number of fourth graders will learn about commodity production in Flagler County by visiting stations at the Flagler County agricultural center.
8. **“Sassy Cows for Savvy Kids”** – More special needs students in Hillsborough County will learn about animal husbandry by rearing a heifer with the help of a Riverview High School agri-science class.
9. **“First Time Farmers”** – More first graders in Jackson County will be exposed to more commodity stations during a field trip in which they learn about local commodity production.
10. **“Sustainability in Action”** – Students at Island Coast High School in Lee County will learn about hydroponics, aquaponics and aquaculture as part of their agri-science teacher’s project.
11. **“Special Education Classroom”** – Special needs students at Liberty County High School will learn about local food production through an upgraded schoolyard garden with the help of their agri-science teacher and agri-science students.
12. **“Tolar Middle School Garden-Based Learning Project”** – Seventh graders at Tolar Middle School in Liberty County will learn about local commodity production, weather patterns, soil composition, fertilizer composition, plant biology and other lessons as part of a project involving the Liberty County Extension Office.
13. **“Cutler Ridge Christian Academy: Community Garden Proposal”** – Agri-science students at Coral Reef Senior High School and other Miami-Dade agricultural groups will help grow a learning lab garden at Cutler Ridge Christian Academy and teach elementary students about local commodity production.
14. **“Top Tomatoes”** – Students at Boys and Girls Clubs of Nassau County will learn how to grow vegetables for food as part of a raised bed garden planted at the club.
15. **“Embryology & Entomology Studies for youth K-6<sup>th</sup> Grades”** – Students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Palm Beach County will learn about poultry production and bugs from 4-H agents who will visit their classrooms.
16. **“South Florida Fair’s Summer Ag-ucation”** – Students in Palm Beach, Okeechobee, Broward and Martin counties will learn about commodity production at the South Florida Fair by performing chores in a vegetable garden, caring for livestock and learning how to make clothes and food byproducts during a summer program.
17. **“The E-Fishin Classroom”** – Students at Centennial Middle School in Pasco County will learn about the aquaculture industry by developing a mini fish farm in a project organized by their agri-science teacher.
18. **“A Child’s Eye View: Gardening through the Eyes of a Child”** – Students in third through eighth grade in Santa Rosa County will learn about Florida horticulture with an additional learning garden developed at the Santa Rosa County Extension Office.
19. **“4-H Agriculture Day”** – Fifth graders in Taylor County will learn about local commodity production during a field trip at the Taylor County Extension Office.
20. **“Going Native”** – Students at Atlantic High School’s Horticultural, Environmental and Marine Science Academy in Volusia County and local elementary students will learn about Florida horticulture and native plants as part of a project organized by their agri-science teacher.

21. **“Growing Minds by Sowing Seeds”** – Fourth and fifth graders will learn about eating nutritiously by eating Florida commodities in a project overseen by agri-science students from DeLand High School.
22. **“Get Growing in Wakulla County”** – A 4-H Junior Master Gardener Club in Wakulla County will teach elementary students about growing Florida commodities by planting schoolyard gardens in four schools.

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