



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM GIVES 35 TEACHERS GRANTS FOR AGRICULTURE PROJECTS

Gainesville -- Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students across Florida are planting school gardens, raising chickens and starting other agriculture projects thanks to 35 teacher grants given by Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.

More than \$32,000 in grants was awarded by the Gainesville-based non-profit to teachers for agriculture projects.

The funding is giving more than 6,000 students an up-close look at agriculture and comes from money that Florida Agriculture in the Classroom receives from the sale of the agriculture specialty license plate called the "Ag Tag."

"Students with no prior agriculture background enjoy seeing where their food comes from," Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Chairman Jennifer W. Sills said. "Students are excited and eager to learn because the projects are hand-on, creative and fun."

Projects selected for funding are as follows:

Bradford County:

- **"Agriculture: Fun and Learning Go Together"** -- Students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade at **Starke Elementary** are learning about Florida agriculture, nutrition, math and science concepts by building raised bed gardens and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.

Brevard County:

- **"Suntree Community: The Interaction of Plants, Humans and Insects"** -- Fourth and fifth graders at **Suntree Elementary** are learning about Florida agriculture and pollination by planting a butterfly garden and growing produce in a greenhouse.
- **"Palm Bay Academy Green Room for Kids"** -- Sixth, seventh and eighth graders at **Palm Bay Academy** are learning about the Florida horticulture industry by planting a schoolyard garden and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.

Broward County:

- **“Grow a Green Business”**– Sixth, seventh and eighth graders at **Sawgrass Springs Middle School** are learning about the Florida horticulture industry by growing herbs and landscape plants and selling them to the community afterward.
- **“Grounds for Healthy Growth”** – Sixth and seventh graders at **Driftwood Middle School** are learning the importance of agriculture by planting raised bed garden and establishing a hydroponics garden.

Calhoun County:

- **“On My Own”** – Exceptional education students in kindergarten through fifth grade at **Blountstown Elementary** are learning about agriculture and nutrition by growing vegetables in a school yard garden and cooking and preserving them afterward.

Clay County:

- **“Farming for Snacks”**– Pre-kindergarten students at **Aurora’s Pre-K Clubhouse** are learning about agriculture by growing fruit and vegetables in a schoolyard garden and eating them for snacks afterward.

Collier County:

- **“A Comparison and Contrast of Watering and Fertilizing Methods”**– Third graders at **Pinecrest Elementary** are using four box gardens in their schoolyard to plant vegetables and herbs and compare irrigation and nutrient methods.

Duval County:

- **“The Green House Classroom”**– Special needs students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade at the **Broach School of Jacksonville West Campus** are comparing yields of a container, hydroponics and aquaponics garden.

DeSoto County:

- **“Garden in the Corner”**– First and second graders at **West Elementary** are growing their own food in a hydroponics garden and learning about agriculture by participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.

Hardee County:

- **“Preserving Florida’s Bounty”**– Culinary arts students at **Hardee Senior High School** are learning about Florida agriculture by growing, preserving and selling preserved items at school events.

Highlands County:

- **“Bountiful Butterflies in a Schoolyard Garden”**– Students in pre-kindergarten through first grade at **Parkview Pre-K** are learning about growing plants and the importance of pollination by constructing a schoolyard garden.
- **“Food for Thought”** – Students in pre-kindergarten through third grade at **Lake Country Elementary** are learning about how food is grown and

different methods of farming that conserves water and nutrient use by expanding a hydroponics garden and adding an AeroGarden.

Hillsborough County:

- **“We Aren’t Chicken”** – Kindergarteners and first graders at **Odessa Christian School** are learning about the life cycle of chickens by incubating and hatching eggs in the classroom.
- **“Agriculture Service Learning”** – First and fifth graders and exceptional education students at **J.S. Robinson Elementary** are learning about Florida agriculture and the environment by planting container gardens, participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons and videotaping the garden for students’ weekly video journals.
- **“Surviving and Thriving on Alternative Water Sources”** – Students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade at **Dowdell Middle Magnet School** are learning about water and soil conservation using a rain barrel and hydroponics growing system.
- **“Salt and Peppa’ Chicken”** – Fourth and fifth graders at **Lawton Chiles Elementary** are learning about how food goes from the farm to the table by rearing chickens, collecting their eggs and selling the chicks.

Jackson County:

- **“Hope for Butterflies”** – High school age students with disabilities at **Hope School** are learning about how plants grow and how butterflies pollinate by planting a schoolyard garden and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.
- **“Pre-K Garden Experience”** – Pre-kindergarteners at **Graceville Elementary** are learning about where their food comes from by planting and learning lessons from a schoolyard vegetable garden.

Lake County:

- **“From Garden to Table to Classroom”** – Students in kindergarten through fifth grade at **Clermont Elementary** are learning about Florida agriculture by expanding a schoolyard garden and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.

Lee County:

- **“How Does Your Garden Grow?”** – Students in kindergarten through eighth graders at **St. Michael Lutheran School** are learning about Florida agriculture by planting vegetable and salsa gardens and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.

Marion County:

- **“Agriculture - Land to Hand to Mouth”** – High school students at **Marion Technical Institute** are learning about how difficult it is to grow food from seed and the careers involved in it as they build a green house and grow herbs, fruits and vegetables in it.

Martin County:

- **“Harvesting with Hydroponics Project”** – High school students at **J.D. Parker Learning Center** are learning biology and economics lessons with a hydroponics growing system.

Dade County:

- **“Chewsy Choices”** -- First graders at **South Miami K-8 Center** are learning how to eat healthy by planting a school garden, using the new USDA Food Guide Pyramid and Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.
- **“Busy Bees and Butterflies”** – Another first grade class at **South Miami K-8 Center** is learning about the importance of pollination by planting a schoolyard garden and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.

Pasco County:

- **“Mickens Pickens”** – Exceptional education students from ages 12 to 22 at **Moore Mickens Education Center** are learning about growing plants and agriculture careers by working with a schoolyard garden.

Pinellas County:

- **“Fugitt Elementary Garden”** – Students in kindergarten through fifth grade at **Fugitt Elementary** are learning about plant biology, soil science and human nutrition by maintaining a schoolyard garden and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.

Polk County:

- **“The Buzz about Pollination Gardening”** – Students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade at **St. Paul Lutheran School** are learning about the importance of pollination by rejuvenating a schoolyard butterfly garden with more pollinators and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.
- **“Cardinals Outdoor Classroom”** – Students in kindergarten through fifth grade at **Polk Avenue Elementary** in Polk County are participating in science lessons by creating a schoolyard garden and observing the plants and insects in it.

Sarasota County:

- **“Establishing a Sister Farm – Sister School Program”** – Students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade at **New Gate Field School** in Sarasota County are partnering with Gamble Creek Farm in which the school is receiving produce and guidance on how to plant a schoolyard garden.

St. Lucie County:

- **“Manatee Outdoor Ag Classroom”** – Sixth, seventh and eighth graders at **Manatee K-8 Center** in St. Lucie County are adding a hydroponics growing system and expanding the school’s aquaculture program.

Taylor County:

- **“The SNAPDRAGONS are Growing Green”** – Special needs students in kindergarten through eighth grade at **Taylor Technical Institute** are learning about Florida agriculture by growing a small vegetable garden.

Volusia County:

- **“Maintaining Biodiversity Helps Ecosystems and Agriculture”** – Students in sixth through 12th grade at **Volusia County School Environmental Service Learning Legacy Project** are learning about biodiversity in agriculture and the environment by planting square foot gardens, observing the natural environment and participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.
- **“Put All of Your ‘Ags’ in One Basket”** – Fifth graders at **Manatee Cove Elementary** are learning how to grow plants in a fall and spring garden and are participating in Florida Agriculture in the Classroom lessons.
- **“Growing Minds by Growing Gardens”** – Students in first through fifth grade at **Blue Lake Elementary** are learning lessons about math, science and Florida agriculture by planting a schoolyard vegetable and native plant garden.

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For more information on Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, visit:
<http://www.flagintheclassroom.com/>