



Agriculture in the Classroom Sask (AITC-SK)



Welcome to the AITC-SK Winter Newsletter! Things are hectic here as we prepare for Showcase 2008 and our spring and summer programming. We hope you take the time to read our newsletter and pass it on to your colleagues. We are always looking for feedback on our programs and resources. Please feel free to contact Sara at 306-933-5224 or e-mail at programs@aitc.sk.ca.

An Update

Fall was busy but a lot of fun. Once again Agribition was a huge success. Over 5000 elementary students attended the Agri-Ed Showcase and associated programs. This year AITC was pleased to introduce the AG-mazing Race for Grade 7 & 8 students. As with all new events there were some slight challenges, but we are confident that we have addressed them and next year will be bigger and better! The Career Expo for high school students also took place during agribition. It was a great experience for the students involved and we were surprised and pleased to note the number of students who are considering careers in the exciting field of agriculture!

In Saskatoon, the Prairieland school tours during Fall Fair and Crop Production Show were well attended (with no storm this year!). The prairieland school tours are an excellent way for students to learn about various aspects of the agriculture industry in a fun, hands-on way. This year the "Grain Production Today" school program featured two new displays that were very well received: The Living Necklace and Grains of Saskatchewan. The next tour will be "Milk and Pork Production Today" for Grade 5 students, April 25 & 26. Contact our office for details.

Classroom Presentations

This spring we are hoping to offer 45 minute classroom presentations in May. There will be a choice of two presentations available:


Grade 2 - 3: **"Agriculture in Saskatchewan"** designed to meet the learning objectives for Social Studies: Interdependence.

Grade 8: **"Agriculture & Water"** designed to meet the learning objectives for the new Grade 8 Science Curriculum: Water Systems on Earth.

Contact our office to find out more information and book a presentation.

Environmental Farm Plans


Show How Much You Care



A Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is about more than just protecting the environment, it's about investing in the future.




EFPs help develop a road map to the future, by managing risks, improving sustainable production, and maintaining water, air, and soil quality and biodiversity. They're about improving farm health and safety, and helping to build a growing awareness of the critical role that farmers play – have always played – in protecting the environment.

Thousands of farmers have taken part in EFP workshops to date. Farmers with EFPs are working to ensure a viable future for agriculture for today, and for generations to come.



ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN
EFP

1.866.298.7222 www.saskpcab.com

NEW VIDEOS AVAILABLE

- Dirt: Secrets in the Soil (Gr. 5—6)
- The Great Food Fight (Gr. 2—6)
- Fit for a King (Gr. 2—4)
- Food Doesn't Grow in the Supermarket (Gr. 4—7)

Contact our office to order!

SHOWCASE 2008

We are very excited to be a part of Showcase this year. We will be facilitating three different sessions in addition to our tradeshow booth. Please bring a colleague and stop by our booth! Tell a friend and come to a session!

AGRICULTURE FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS!

This session is designed for teachers who teach elementary science, social studies and health. Key features of the session include:

- **Weather and Agriculture kit**; containing high quality seeds and weather damaged seeds so students can have a first hand look at how weather can impact the food supply!
- **Tomatosphere**; This exciting program helps students learn how to conduct a scientific experiment and compare the germination rates of seeds. The students will participate in real research as their results will help in understanding issues related to long-term space travel.
- **Little Green Thumbs**; indoor gardens are a great way to teach about plants and interdependence. Learn how to be a part of this project that supplies your school with all the items to have a successful indoor garden.

Plus information on other programs and free resources!

MAKING SOIL SCIENCE FUN

Soil is one of the most precious resources on our earth - only 3% of the earth's surface is available to grow our food. So how do we create excitement about soils for middle-years students? Through fun, hands-on activities like soil painting, vermi-composting, soil texturizing and more!

This session will take you through basic activities and provide soil kits and resource material.

AGRICULTURE BOTANY OF SASKATCHEWAN, BIOLOGY 20

Through the initiative of AITC and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and upon consultation with teachers in Saskatchewan, a new unit plan for Biology 20, Unit 4 has been developed. The goal behind this unit plan is to provide teachers with updated materials and resources while providing students with an interesting approach to agricultural botany in Saskatchewan.

The students will participate in *Student Directed Inquiries* developed from recent and relevant articles that address the Learning Outcomes, and they will investigate ecoregions in Saskatchewan in a role-play/case study scenario, which concludes with a presentation to their peers.

Teachers will receive this unit complete with resources such as powerpoints, reading packages and case studies, as well as a list of potential guest speakers and field trip locations. Assessment strategies are also included in the unit package.

Ag Ambassador Network

Please help us strengthen the network. If you have had a recent address change or your Ag Ambassador has moved to a new school just fill out the form and send it back to us so your school can continue to receive the benefits of the network..

Address Change New Ambassador Current Ambassador

Name: _____ Phone: _____

School Name: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Town/Prov: _____ Preferred method of contact: _____

Postal Code: _____ Grades and subjects taught: _____

Division: _____

