



Good day teachers! Time is flying by and Spring will be here before we know it. Here at Agriculture in the Classroom we have been busy with Crop Production Show, preparing for teacher conventions, revising our website and doing classroom presentations for the Little Green Thumbs program. We hope that things are going well in the classrooms and welcome any ideas, suggestions or feedback you can give us!

Sara Shymko
 T: 306-933-5224
 E-mail: programs@aitc.sk.ca

Did you know?

Producers in Saskatchewan help pay for agriculture research and marketing. There are many commodity organizations in Saskatchewan that collect check-off dollars from producers from each sale of their commodity. The organizations use these funds to promote and do research on the commodity. The organizations must promote their commodity in a generic way, without reference to a particular producer. Agriculture in the classroom is proudly supported by the following commodity organizations:

- Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission
- Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan

2009 Agribition a Success

Once again Agriculture in the Classroom was busy in November with Agribition. This year was the second year for the "AGmazing Race" for grade 7 & 8 students. We made some minor adjustments and this year the event ran smoother. Students and agriculture industry representatives involved enjoyed themselves.

Approximately 4000 elementary students visited the Agri-Ed Showcase and got a chance to "look, touch and smell" agriculture. If you haven't taken your students to Agribition yet put it on your list of things to do!

This year the Career Expo was held over two days and schools had the option of a morning or afternoon session. Each year this event gets better and impressive results from this year indicate it does have some effect on students:

- 62.5% would consider a career in agriculture
- 15% would pursue a career in agriculture
- 63.8% said the career expo impacted their answer the above answer
- 92% would recommend the career expo to other students.

Teacher Input Wanted

As you all know there is major curriculum renewal happening right now at the Ministry of Education. This is a wonderful opportunity for Agriculture in the Classroom to develop new materials aligned with the revised curriculum. If you have any suggestions or would like to be involved in focus groups please let us know.

Farmers... Stewards of our Soil and Water Resources

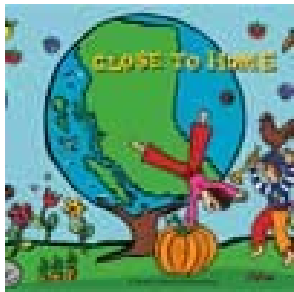
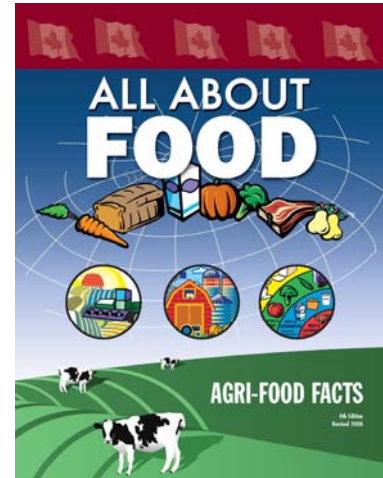
Farmers live on the land. They drink the water from the wells that reach down to the underground supplies and utilize surface water supplies for their livestock. They understand their role as stewards of these precious resources. Farmers utilize the tools from scientific research necessary to grow profitable crops while building the soil for greater production in the future. In the last 60 years crop yields have increased dramatically. As the worlds population grows, demand for food and fibre make increased production essential.

Farmers will make this happen. They will continue to combine soil and water conservation practices with other technology to meet the challenge of feeding the world population- including you! If you meet a farmer be sure to thank them!

NEW RESOURCES

We are excited to offer teachers two new resources in FRENCH and ENGLISH! With generous support from Farm Credit Canada the Agriculture organizations across Canada have been able to revise the popular **ALL ABOUT FOOD FACTBOOK** and **TEACHER'S GUIDE** with the most recent census information. The Factbook is a 28 page full-colour book that depicts agriculture information in a variety of tables and graphs. Includes interesting facts such as:

- Percentage of consumer spending on food in 2006
- Types of family farms
- Sources of fat in the average Canadian diet
- What it takes to grow a hectare of wheat
- Canada's changing farms
- Trade in Canada



Breaking into the music scene, Agriculture in the Classroom has produced our first ever CD of agriculture songs called **CLOSE TO HOME**. This initiative was led by BC Agriculture in the Classroom and feedback from teachers in Saskatchewan who have used this CD is very positive! The CD features seven songs and is geared for elementary grades.

**TO ORDER THESE RESOURCES PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT
WWW.PROGRAMS@AITC.SK.CA OR 933-5520.**

For high school teachers we have recently added the following resources to our library:

- **The Pesticide Debate:** Controversial Environmental Issues produced by Ontario Agri-Food Education. An excellent resource about discovery and exploration that will challenge you and your students to better understand this issue. *Grade 10: Sustainable Ecosystems*.
- **Nutrients...for People and the Environment:** A collection of three short books that provide information on Phosphorus, Nitrogen and Potassium.
- **Agriculture Botany of Saskatchewan**—Developed last year by AITC and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources for use in Biology 20: Unit 4. Contains unit plan, reading package, assessment pages and powerpoint.

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: _____
