

News Release

Greg Hicks, communications director
12580 West Creek Pkwy. Richmond, VA 23238 | (804) 290-1139 | vafb.com



Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom receives grants

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom was awarded an Agriculture in the Classroom Excellence Grant and a Monsanto Outreach Grant by the National Agriculture in the Classroom consortium at their conference held June 24-27 in St. Louis.

The ACE Grant awarded Virginia's AITC program \$10,000 for the creation of a children's book about Virginia agriculture. The book will feature Farmer Ben, a character being developed by AITC to help teach children about Virginia agriculture and its importance in the commonwealth.

The Monsanto Outreach Grant, funded by Monsanto Co., will be used to create four- to eight-page activity books for classroom use by elementary school teachers who attend AITC workshops.

Virginia AITC has received ACE Grants for the past four years and Monsanto Outreach Grants for the past three years.

AITC promotes understanding of agriculture through education. It provides elementary school and middle school teachers with free workshops and agriculture-themed lesson plans that are aligned with Virginia's Standards of Learning for science, math, language arts and social studies.

Organized in 1992, Virginia's AITC program has continued to grow its workshops and expand the resources it provides to Virginia teachers.

"Receiving these grants will help Agriculture in the Classroom provide Virginia teachers with some great classroom teaching materials," said Karen Davis, director of Virginia's AITC program. "As school budgets are squeezed around the state, these resources will be a welcome addition for students and teachers."

For the 2008-2009 school year, AITC provided a record-breaking 79 workshops to 1,898 teachers. For information about AITC and resources available to educators, visit AgInTheClass.org.

AITC is a national program that promotes greater understanding of agriculture through education. The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a nonprofit organization that receives financial and administrative support from Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.



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