



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM LAUNCHES A  
CURRICULUM RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS NATIONWIDE**

**LOUISVILLE, KY** – Teachers in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade looking for real-life applications for their reading, writing, science and social studies classes should search no further. The National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) has launched its National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix, a database of lesson plans and related activities searchable by grade level, subject area, educational standard, and keyword.

The Matrix found at <http://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/> features lesson plans that use agricultural themes to integrate history, geography, nutrition, science, technology, engineering, and math content. It provides teachers around the country with a one-stop-shop for resources that help them connect their students to required learning standards with relevant and engaging resources.

“The National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization’s Curriculum Matrix is the only resource of its kind that contextualizes lessons with agricultural applications and ties them to national educational standards,” said Dr. Debra Spielmaker, project director for NAITCO who developed the Curriculum Matrix. “In addition to lesson plans, the Matrix offers complementary companion resources such as activities, games, videos and more to help solidify in students’ minds the concepts they need to learn.”

NAITCO developed the Curriculum Matrix together with its partners USDA/NIFA and CHS Foundation, Inc. “We’re very proud of the new resource we are able to offer our teachers and educators across the country to help further agricultural literacy instruction in their classrooms,” said NAITCO President Lorri Brenneman who is also the Montana AITC state contact.

The Curriculum Matrix’s lessons and companion resources are available to educators free of charge, and a user name and password aren’t needed to access them.

NAITCO launched the Curriculum Matrix at its National Conference ‘Unbridled Possibilities’ in Louisville, KY in June. To view a video about its release please visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCv7cY6JKHY>

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