October 2014

Dear Ag in the Classroom Teachers:

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is pleased to announce the 2015 Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year program. This competitive program will focus statewide attention on the critical role of teaching. Ag in the Classroom (AITC) will honor one PreK-8 Oklahoma teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts in curriculum.

Applications are invited for this year’s award. Enclosed is the application packet. If you have applied before, please note that the application has changed. The deadline for postmark of completed applications is December 31, 2014. Submit to Ag in the Classroom, Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, 2800 N. Lincoln, Okla. City, OK 73105.

Who can apply for the 2015 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year?
Educators who meet the following criteria:

- Certified teachers currently engaged in PreK-8 classroom instruction
- Teachers integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula
- Teachers who have attended AITC professional development and/or the AITC summer professional development

The Purpose of Ag in the Classroom:
The purpose of Ag in the Classroom is building agriculture literacy. Curriculum developed to that end uses agriculture-related activities and research-based background material to teach pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade core curriculum in language arts, math, science, reading, social studies and the visual arts.

What is the Ag in the Classroom 2015 Teacher of the Year Award?
One PreK-8th grade teacher will be recognized for his/her creative efforts to teach students about the importance of agriculture. The AITC Teacher of the Year will be recognized at the Ag Day, April 1, 2015 festivities and the teacher will be presented with a plaque and a $500.00 honorarium. During the summer AITC “On the Road” professional development, the AITC Teacher of the Year will share his/her AITC teaching experiences. Registration, travel and accommodations for the AITC Teacher of the Year will be provided to attend the 2015 AITC National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.
What are the criteria for selection?
Teachers must integrate/utilize agricultural information within their classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Instruction may include, but is not limited to: understanding the importance and value of agriculture in student’s daily lives; understanding the relationships between agriculture, food and fiber production, animals, health, energy systems, technology, economics, and the environment; identifying and understanding the connections between academic subjects and agricultural careers including but not limited to STEM careers; understanding the overall connectedness between STEM and agriculture. Innovative, integrated, and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Educator Narrative:** The degree to which an educator exemplifies leading instruction on accurate agriculture knowledge, attitudes, and skills, and demonstrates teaching excellence in gaining student understanding of a selected agriculture literacy topic. Grants, community extensions, professional development relating agriculture, and awards for teaching will also be considered. **25 points**

- **Creativity and utilization of agricultural information:** The degree to which sound agricultural concepts have been infused into the classroom curriculum. Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning and evidence of teacher’s impact on student attitudes towards agriculture. **25 points**

- **Interdisciplinary approach:** The degree to which agricultural concepts have been included in a variety of subjects and disciplines. Value will be placed on the approach, which teaches agriculture across the curriculum. **25 points**

- **Documentation and photos:** The degree to which photos and other documentation exhibit excellence in agriculture literacy methods used by the applicant, to include but not limited to: news articles, bulletin board examples relating to agriculture literacy, community outreach, school newsletters, grant award letters, etc. **20 pts**

- **Formatting of application:** The degree to which the applicant has completed the application in accordance to the instructions. **5pts**

How will applications be evaluated?
A panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education and AITC will evaluate all applications.

How can applications be submitted?
Submit the following:

- The completed information form
- The completed application form
- Two letters of endorsement (one from an administrator and one from a colleague or parent)

**Deadline for postmark of completed applications is December 31, 2014**
Submit to:
AG IN THE CLASSROOM
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY
2800 N. LINCOLN
OKLA. CITY, OK 73105
Ag in the Classroom Coordinators
Cheri Long – cheri.long@ag.ok.gov – 405-249-9234
Dana Bessinger – dana.bessinger@ag.ok.gov – 405-795-0121
Audrey Harmon – audrey.harmon@ag.ok.gov – 405-740-0160
2015 Application Packet

Please complete and return
(1) The attached information form
(2) The attached application and
(3) Two letters of endorsement (one from an administrator and one from colleague or parent)
to:

AG IN THE CLASSROOM
OKLA. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & FORESTRY
2800 N. Lincoln
OKLA. CITY, OK 73105

(Postmark deadline December 31, 2014)

Questions? Contact AITC staff: Cheri Long, Dana Bessinger or Audrey Harmon.
405-795-0121
Ag in the Classroom 2015 Teacher of the Year Application Information Form

Teacher’s Name___________________________________________________________

Home Address_____________________________________________________________
Phone(_____)________________________

City________________________________State____________ZIP_________________

School Name______________________________________________________________

School Address____________________________________________________________
Phone(_____)________________________

City________________________________State____________ZIP_________________

E-mail address____________________________________________________________

Grade Level__________________Subjects taught:________________________________

Principal’s Name___________________________________________________________

# of years teaching experience_______ # of years at current school________

Education (include institution, graduation year, degree/certification)

Ag in the Classroom Training

Awards and Honors Related to Teaching

Other Recognition or Honors

Membership in Professional Organizations
Ag in the Classroom
2015 Teacher of the Year
Application

Provide a narrative response to the following three items. Limit responses to 2 pages per item (for a total of 6 pages). Reviewers will not read beyond the page limit of the application form to evaluate the application. When writing, consider the evaluation criteria. Each response must be typed on one side of the page only, using a font no smaller than 12 point and double-spaced. All margins must be at least one inch. Each applicant should clearly label the parts of their application and submit them with the following format: (5 points)

Name, school, document title
Example:
Jane Doe, Anytown Public School, Educator Narrative (Please note which topic you are addressing A-F)
Jane Doe, Anytown Public School, Creativity and Utilization
Jane Doe, Anytown Public School, Documentation and Photos

1. Educator narrative: Please share your method of integrating/instructing one of the following knowledge/attitude/skills of agriculture literacy in your classroom. Please note on the first line of your narrative(s) which topic you are addressing (two page limit, 25 points):
   A. Cross curricular integration of agriculture topics in standing subject(s) such as math, ELA, science, social studies, and creative arts through learning activities.
   B. Agriculture into your Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.
   C. Economics and agriculture (historically speaking or present time issues)
   D. Agriculture (food and fiber systems)
   E. Agriculture and the environment
   F. Agriculture and renewable energy

2. Creativity and utilization of agricultural information: Describe your unique and innovative approaches to advancing agricultural literacy in your classroom. Describe how you implemented sound agricultural concepts by infusing them into the classroom curriculum. Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning and evidence of teacher’s impact on student attitudes towards agriculture. Explain how these activities helped students better understand agriculture’s impact to Americans in personal lives, our state and national heritage, the environment, state and national security and the economy. (two page limit, 25 points)

3. Documentation and photos: Include photos and other documentation to illustrate how you implement Ag in the Classroom into your curriculum and activities. Ideas to include but not limited to: news articles, bulletin board examples relating to agriculture literacy, community outreach, school newsletters, grant award letters, etc. (two page limit, 20 pts)