

October 2009

Dear Ag in the Classroom Teachers:

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is pleased to announce the **2010 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 pre-K-8 Oklahoma teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts in curriculum.

Applications are invited for this year's award. Enclosed is the application packet. The deadline for postmark of completed applications is Dec. 18, 2009. Submit to Ag in the Classroom, Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, 2800 N. Lincoln, Okla. City, OK 73105. All candidates will receive notification of the results by January 31, 2010.

Who can apply for the 2010 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year?

Educators who meet the following criteria:

- Certified teachers currently engaged in pre-K-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

What is Ag in the Classroom?

Ag in the Classroom is a joint project of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. 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 2010 Teacher of the Year Award?

One pre-K-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 on Ag Day, March 25, 2010 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 2010 AITC National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

What are the criteria for selection?

The teacher must utilize agricultural information and/or materials within the classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Learning activities may include, but are not limited to, an understanding of the impact of agriculture on personal lives, our state and national heritage, the environment, state and national security and the economy. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

Evaluation Criteria

- 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. - 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*
- Advancement of educational standards - the degree to which the nominee aligns agricultural learning activities with state, national and/or other established education standards. - 25 points*
- Student impact - evidence of teacher's impact on student attitudes and overall learning. - 25 points*

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 18, 2009.

Submit to:

**AG IN THE CLASSROOM
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY
2800 N. LINCOLN
OKLA. CITY, OK 73105**

Jamey Allen - jamey.allen@oda.state.ok.us - 405.522.6768
Dana Bessinger - dana.bessinger@oda.state.ok.us - 405.522.2105
Judy Ferrell - judy.ferrell@oda.state.ok.us - 405.522.5513

2010 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year

Sponsored by

*Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom
Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Dosia Jackson in memory of Paul Jackson
Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women*



2010 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 a colleague
or parent)*

to:

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

(postmark deadline December 18, 2010)
Questions? Contact AITC staff: Jamey Allen, Dana Bessinger or Judy Ferrell.
1-800-580-6543.

**Ag in the Classroom 2010 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
2010 Teacher of the Year
Application**

*Provide a narrative response to the following three items (a, b & c) listed below. 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.*

***a** Describe your unique and innovative approaches to advancing agricultural literacy in your classroom.*

***b** Identify the teaching methods you employed (i.e. experiential, case study, et.). Specify agricultural concepts taught and which academic areas of study were utilized. What was the depth and duration of the activity? Explain how these learning experiences helped advance state and/or national education standards.*

***c** 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.*