

FOUNDATION ON THE FIRST

April 2019



**Kansas
Foundation for
Agriculture in the
Classroom**

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Agri-tag

Agri-Tag license plates have two main objectives: to promote the #1 industry in Kansas and to support the statewide K-12 agriculture literacy program sponsored by Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Your support will help fund KFAC programs designed to educate Kansas youth about the importance of agriculture and the role that agriculture plays improving not only the quality of their lives, but also the future of Kansas.

Currently, we have over 1,000 Agri-tags on the road! Be a “driving” force to double the message of agricultural literacy with these moving billboards. If you or someone you know are interested in getting an Agri-tag, please visit your county treasurer’s office.

For an annual tax-deductible donation of \$35, you can help further KFAC’s mission of connecting classrooms to Kansas agriculture. The Agri-tag is the only agriculture-related specialty tag in the state. Join us in promoting Kansas’ number one industry - agriculture! [Click here for more information!](#)



Grow Green Match Day

We are excited to announce our participation in Grow Green Match Day on Monday, April 22, 2019. This event is a partnership with the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. Donations made to KFAC on Grow Green Match Day will receive a 50% match. This is a way to make your dollars stretch further and support KFAC! Your donations will help secure a healthy and sustainable future for our organization and our community.

You can make a donation by visiting Colony Square Atrium at 555 Poyntz Ave., Downtown Manhattan from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or online by visiting www.growgreenmanhattan.com. Please consider helping us further our mission of “Connecting Classrooms to Kansas agriculture” by joining us on April 22nd for Grow Green Match Day! Questions can be directed to info@ksagclassroom.org or by calling the KFAC office at (785) 320-4350.



Teacher of the Year Applications

Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom will soon be accepting applications for the 2020 Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year and Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Regional Excellence in Teaching awards. The awards honor Kansas teachers who excel at incorporating agriculture into their everyday classroom curriculum. Applications are due June 30, 2019.

All K-12 district-certified Kansas teachers who currently engage in integrating agriculture into a non-vocational agriculture classroom setting are eligible for the award. Applications will be evaluated on creativity and utilization of agricultural information, interdisciplinary approach, advancement of educational standards and student impact.

The Teacher of the Year award winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) convention, sponsored by High Plains Journal and AG am in Kansas. The Kansas Farm Bureau regional award winners will receive their choice of a \$600 scholarship to attend the NAITC convention or a \$200 cash prize to use toward classroom supplies, sponsored by Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. [Click here to apply!](#)



Donor Feature



This month's Donor Feature is the Kansas Beef Council. The Kansas Beef Council was formed by the Kansas Livestock Association in 1973 to promote beef across Kansas. The Kansas Beef Council is headquartered in Topeka, Kansas.

[Click here to visit their website!](#)

March Wrap-Up

March provided KFAC with a variety of opportunities. Our education committee was able to meet and discuss the direction of KFAC for 2019. We were able to attend the Kansas Agriculture Bankers Conference and discuss the need for continued agricultural education in

Lesson Plan Feature

Objective:
Students will learn the biology of how a cow digests the grasses they eat, compare quality of forage (overgrazed versus healthy), and the effects of the animal's environment to its production.

Objectives:
1. Student will learn how a cow digests the grasses and plants they eat.
2. Students will simulate "letting" like a cow using their hands and compare amount of forage gathered in overgrazed situations compared to healthy grass situations.
3. Students will determine the effects of rangeland health on the production (milk, beef, etc.) of a cow.
4. Students will understand the importance of native grasslands to Kansas' economy.
5. Students will learn about different management techniques ranchers use to maintain the health of native grasslands.
6. Students will act out the roles of native plants and invasive weeds to see the impact overgrazing can have to pasture.

Background Information:
Native grasslands support a unique web of life. They allow Kansas ranchers to be among the top producers of beef cattle in the country. Grasslands offer a diverse assortment of grazing habits and display a dazzling assortment of colors throughout the spring and summer. Kansas must protect this valuable resource. There are some natural management techniques that can be used to protect these native grasslands. Different practices are used in rangeland management and are used as a guide for farmers and ranchers. Stocking rates and the concept of "take half, leave half" are two such concepts.

Promoting the health of native grasslands is important through management, but natural processes are also used to promote native plants to thrive. One natural process is the use of fire by burning in the spring. Controlled burning is used to start the growth of introduced plant species, like Peccora and give the native species, like big bluestem, a spring start at growth. The use of fire, over a period of several years, can actually promote these native plants so much that it reduces the amount of introduced plant species.

www.ksagclassroom.org Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Our Graze Like a Cow lesson plan is for fourth through tenth graders. Student will learn how a cow digests the grasses and plants they eat and understand the importance of native grasslands to Kansas' economy.

[Click here to view the full lesson plan!](#)

schools today. We traveled to Topeka to discuss agriculture with current legislators on Ag Day. We are also excited to open our teacher of the year applications, starting today!

Briana



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