



Teacher of the Year

The Arizona Farm Bureau Teacher of the Year award is designed to recognize an educator's efforts to incorporate agriculture and natural resources into the school curriculum both in K-12 classrooms or in Agriscience Career and Technical Education programs.

A qualified educator is one that works to integrate basic agricultural concepts into their lessons while meeting school curriculum objectives, as well as a teacher who has developed their student's problem-solving skills through the analysis of agricultural issues and information using creative teaching techniques or methods.

The Arizona Farm Bureau *Teacher of the Year* will receive 1) a scholarship to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Rhode Island (June 23rd – 25th) sponsored by the [Arizona Foundation for Ag Literacy](#) 2) a \$500 classroom grant to continue teaching agriculture in their classroom provided by the [Arizona Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom](#) program, and 3) will be submitted for the *National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award*.

The deadline to apply is November 10th.

Winner will be announced December 1st.



Application Requirements and Instructions

Teachers must demonstrate integration and utilization of agricultural information within their classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Applicants must demonstrate use of the National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes: understanding the importance and value of agriculture in students' daily lives; understanding the relationships among agriculture, food and fiber production, animals, health, energy systems, technology, economics, and the environment; identifying and understanding the connections between academic content areas and agriculture careers including, but not limited to, STEM careers; understanding the overall connectedness between STEM and agriculture, Innovative, integrated, and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged. <https://cdn.agclassroom.org/nat/data/get/NALObooklet.pdf>

Summary of Application Components

- Application
- Narrative
- Lesson plan
- Documentation and Photos
- Headshot
- Letter of support
- Statement of Release

Component Descriptions

Application Form: This portion does not have associated point value, however, will be used to gain background on applicant's experiences. Saved as *Last Name Application*

Educator Narrative (4-page limit, 12-point font, double-spaced) Describe methods of integrating and instructing one or more of the following *National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes* in the teacher's classroom. How is the theme (or themes) used to increase agricultural literacy? Note on the first line of the narrative which theme(s) is addressed: Saved as *Last Name Educator Narrative*

1. Agriculture and the Environment
2. Plants and Animals for Food, Fiber, and Energy
3. Food, Health, and Lifestyle
4. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
5. Culture, Society, Economy, and Geography

Lesson Plan (6-page limit, single spaced 12-point font): Submit one lesson plan which illustrates the agricultural literacy teaching method as described in the narrative. (Be sure to give credit to the appropriate sources, if applicable). Evaluation criteria includes use of standards-based, formal education practices for teaching agricultural literacy which are integrated into multiple academic

content areas rather than a single subject area. Saved as *Last Name Lesson plan* Please include the following content, according to the order below, in your lesson plan:

Applicant's Name and City/Town

Title of the lesson

Brief purpose of the lesson

Grade level(s) addressed.

Time length of the lesson

Objective of the lesson

Standards addressed (limit your State Standards to no more than one-half page.

National Ag in the Classroom Literacy outcomes (NALOs) addressed.

<https://cdn.agclassroom.org/nat/data/get/NALObooklet.pdf>

Materials list

Vocabulary or keywords

Instructor Procedure

Additional resources which enhance the lesson, no external links. Screenshots or worksheet images may be used to illustrate student components.

Assessment (list a minimum of 3 essential questions that students should understand and be able to answer after having been taught the lesson.

Documentation and photos (seven-page limit) Applicants compile photos and other documentation of instruction on agricultural literacy. Please use quality images and add a brief caption at the bottom of each photo to describe the activity.

- Four external links corresponding to images may be included. Acceptable links include videos (no longer than 5 minutes), press releases, newspaper articles, and other complementary external resources.
- No links to file drives containing multiple files will be accepted.
- Should be saved as a PDF and titled *Last Name Documentation*

Letter of Support Submit a letter of support written by a School Administrator or other individual who can speak to the inclusion of agriculture in your classroom. Saved as *Last Name Letter of Support*

Statement of Release Complete the provided statement of release for the use of photographs, lesson plans, and other materials by the Arizona Farm Bureau for media publications. Saved as *Last Name Statement of Release*

Evaluation Process

- All applications will be evaluated by a panel of 3 judges familiar with agriculture, education, and Agriculture in the Classroom.
- The winning teacher will be notified December 1st by Arizona Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom (AZFB AITC) Staff. The winner will need to work with the AZFB AITC Staff to complete the National Application prior to January 20th.

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Points
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 selected agricultural literacy theme(s). Grants, community extensions, and professional development relating to the narrative topic for other educators will also be considered. (4-page limit)	25
Lesson Plan: The degree to which accurate agricultural concepts have been integrated into a standards-based education plan, which includes a critical thinking element and demonstrates for the learner a deeper understanding of the relationships between agricultural systems, individuals, and the world (6-page limit)	25
Education Practices: The degree to which the educator utilizes formal education practices for integrated, innovative, standards-based lesson plan with demonstrated understanding of accurate agricultural literacy. This criteria will be evaluated from the educator narrative and lesson plan.	25
Documentation and Photos: The degree to which photos and other documentation exhibit excellence in agricultural literacy methods used by the applicant, to include but not limited to: news articles, bulletin board examples relating to agricultural literacy, community outreach, school newsletters, grant award letters, etc. (7-page limit)	25

Submission Format

- Use a 12-point font, double-spaced on the narrative and single-spaced on the lesson plan (double spacing may be used in the lesson plan where appropriate). Use one-inch margins.
- Each applicant should clearly label parts of their application and submit each document as a separate PDF file with the following name for each document:
 - *Jane Do Letter of Support (PDF)*
 - *Jane Do Narrative (PDF)*
 - *Jane Do Lesson Plan (PDF)*
 - *Jane Do Documentation and Photos (PDF)*
 - *Jane Do Statement of Release (PDF)*
 - *Jane Do Headshot (JPEG, PNG)*

Submission Information

- AZFB AITC Staff will collaborate with teachers on submission materials and information.
- Application and supporting materials **must be received by 11:59pm on November 10, 2025**. Late applications will not be considered.
- Applications and supporting materials should be sent to Katie Aikins at katieaikins@azfb.org no later than November 10th.
- Questions can be directed to Katie Aikins, katieaikins@azfb.org



Educator of the Year

Application Checklist

- ☐ Educator of the Year Application
- ☐ Narrative (4-page limit)
- ☐ Letter of recommendation or support
- ☐ Documentation and photos (7-page limit)
- ☐ Completed Lesson Plan (6-page limit)
- ☐ Statement of Release
- ☐ Headshot



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Does the size of my school or class weigh into the scoring for the award?* An educator from a small school has an equal chance to win as one from a large school.
2. *Can we turn in an application for a group or Team of teachers?* No. The Educator of the year award is given to an individual teacher to recognize his/her efforts.
3. *What if I am selected as the Educator of the Year and can not attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in June. Can I defer my award to next year?* No. The NAITC Scholarship is only good for the year in which it is awarded.
4. *If I have applied for the Educator of the Year award before, can I apply again?* Good news. This is the first year of the program so you shouldn't run into this problem. Teachers are permitted to apply for multiple years. However, once you have won the award you will no longer be eligible.
5. *Do I have to be a public-school educator to apply?* No. All K-12 classroom educators (excluding University, Extension, and NRCD educators) are encouraged to apply.



Educator of the Year

Application Form

Please note that the application is for reference and application preparation only. All responses will be electronically entered into the National Award Application for the chosen Arizona Educator of the Year.

Name:

Phone:

Home Address:

State:

Zip:

School Name:

School Address:

State:

Zip:

Email Address:

Grade Level:

Subjects taught:

of years teaching experience:

of years at current school:

Education:

Institution

Year

Degree/Certification

Professional Experience:

Position

School/Organization

Dates

Average # students taught per year

Awards and Honors Related to Teaching:

Other Recognition or Honors:

Membership in Professional Organizations:

Summary of agricultural literacy work related to application (200 word limit):



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Materials & Photo Release

I, the undersigned, release all components of this application-including photographs and lesson plans- to the Arizona Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Program (AZFB AITC) for use on the AZFB AITC website, to be shared with sponsors, and used for brochures, media releases, and publicly promoting future recognition of the organization. Photos will also be taken of the award winner.

Applicant's Name (Printed)

City/Town:

Applicant's Signature:

Date