

2025 Literacy Project - Program Guide

Cattle, Corn, and Courage - The Story of Dr. John Matsushima

Educational Resource Available Online: This Program Guide, additional resources, and student activity pages can be found online at www.CoAgClassroom.org on the Literacy Project page. Please make additional copies of this page as needed and share with colleagues.

Educational Resources & Activity Pages

Enhance your students' experience with *Cattle, Corn, and Courage – The Story of Dr. John Matsushima* using a variety of engaging activity pages designed to reinforce key themes from the book. These hands-on activities connect to Colorado Academic Standards and encourage students to think critically, explore agriculture, and reflect on Dr. Matsushima's contributions. From active listening and vocabulary challenges to science experiments and beef industry explorations, these pages provide meaningful learning opportunities that extend the impact of the Literacy Project. Access these resources and answer keys on the Literacy Project Page of the Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom website: CoAgClassroom.org.

General Resources (All Grade Levels)

- Cattle, Corn, and Courage - The Story of Dr. Matsushima (Read-aloud/book study)
- Dr. Matsushima Q&A video
- Dr. Matsushima Documentary
- Grounded - Ag Careers Magazine
- History Colorado Virtual Field Trip: Japanese Americans in Colorado During WWII
- Video Contest
- Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix Lessons

Elementary Activities

- Active Listening Worksheet
- Beef Sticks Tasting Experience
- Immigration Journey Mapping
- Explore and Compare Corn - Sensory Activity
- Corn Seed Germination Experiment

- Corn Origami
- Cow Graze Maze
- Vocabulary Word Search
- Vocabulary Word Match
- The Journey of a Beef Animal
- From Ranch to Restaurant: The Journey of a McDonald's Burger
- Corn: Inside and Out!
- Beef Sticks and Nutrition!

Middle and High School Activities

- Steam Flaking Corn: Student Experiment
- Agriculture Careers Exploration Worksheet
- Exploring Colorado Agriculture through Data
- "Good Food + Good Water = A Good Life"
- The Trail of the Feedlot Industry
- Cattle Feeding Math: Land, Space, and Feeding Calculations

Video Contest

Showcase your students' learning in the Literacy Project Video Contest! Share your students' journey and creativity by entering our Video Contest. Highlight your class's or school's engagement with the project and what your students have learned. Submitting a video is easy, and all entries receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Ag Classroom Store. Winning videos will earn additional prizes and be featured in our promotional efforts! Submissions are due by May 15, 2025. Start planning your video today!

RESOURCES ONLINE

Go to
CoAgClassroom.org
for full Educational
Resource Packets.

Elementary and
MS/HS Packets
available!



Scan to Access
Educational
Resources



Scan to Submit
Video Contest
Entries

Grounded - Ag Careers Magazine

As part of this project, Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom has partnered with The Fence Post to publish a special edition of Grounded – Ag Careers Magazine. This magazine includes an in-depth feature on Dr. John Matsushima, detailing his contributions to agriculture and innovations in cattle nutrition. It also provides students with insights into a variety of careers in agriculture, helping them explore opportunities beyond traditional farming and ranching. Special thanks go to The Fence Post, Bree Poppe, Rachel Gabel, and their entire team for their hard work in bringing this magazine to life.

Dr. Matsushima Videos

Western Ag Network has produced two videos to support the 2025 Literacy Project.

- **Dr. Matsushima Q&A Video (5-7 minutes):** This short video is an excellent resource for elementary students, offering a personal introduction to Dr. Matsushima. It provides insights into his life, groundbreaking research, and lasting contributions to the beef industry. Teachers and volunteers are encouraged to show this video during the book reading to help students connect with Dr. Matsushima and enhance engagement.
- **Dr. Matsushima Documentary:** This in-depth film explores his lifelong impact on cattle nutrition and the beef industry, making it a valuable resource for middle and high school students. It provides a comprehensive look at his research and innovations, inspiring students to explore the intersection of science and agriculture.

A special thanks to Rachel Gabel and the Western Ag Network team for making these videos possible. **Both videos will be available on the @CoAgClassroom YouTube channel.**

History Colorado Video Field Trip - Japanese Americans in Colorado During WWII

In partnership with History Colorado, this project also includes a video field trip focused on the experiences of Japanese Americans in Colorado during World War II. The video, created by Rachael Storm, Ph.D., Curator of Business + Industry at History Colorado, provides historical context and personal stories

that align with the themes of resilience and innovation seen in Dr. Matsushima's life. Teachers can access this video on the [CoAITC YouTube Channel \(@coagclassroom\)](#), using the direct link <https://bit.ly/3CjNbwT> or by scanning the provided QR code.



Scan to Watch
History Colorado
Video

Additional History Resources: For educators seeking more historical context, the following resources provide valuable insights into the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II.

1. **Densho.org** – The gold standard for primary sources on Japanese internment during WWII.
2. **Rocky Mountain PBS – Colorado Experience: Amache** – A documentary episode on the history of Amache, a Japanese internment camp in Colorado. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/CmQoOcamxJw>.
3. **History Colorado Amache** – A curriculum guide with lesson plans and activities on Japanese internment and its impact on Colorado, accessible by searching the [HistoryColorado.org](https://www.historycolorado.org)

Spanish Resources Available

Cattle, Corn, and Courage – The Story of Dr. John Matsushima and the accompanying elementary student activity pages are available in Spanish. To request printed copies of the book in Spanish, scan the code and complete the form. The elementary activity sheets in Spanish will be available online on the Literacy Project [page at CoAgClassroom.org](#).



Scan to Request
Spanish Resources

Program Evaluation

We value your insights! After completing the 2025 Literacy Project with your students, please take a few moments to fill out our Program Evaluation Survey. Complete the survey online at: <https://bit.ly/4aGdcTE> or scan the QR code. Your input helps us continue improving and expanding agricultural literacy education for students across Colorado. **All participants who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for a \$150 Amazon gift card as a thank you for your time and input.**



Scan to Complete
Program
Evaluation Survey