

ATTENTION PREK-12 TEACHERS!!

You're invited to participate in the
**COLORADO AGRICULTURE IN THE
CLASSROOM'S 2025 LITERACY PROJECT:**

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

Dr. John Matsushima, who is currently 103 years old, is the son of Japanese immigrants, born in Denver and raised on a family farm in Platteville, Colorado. He started raising cattle as a member of 4-H and FFA and attended Colorado A&M, now Colorado State University, in Fort Collins. He has spent nearly 65 years of his life at CSU as a student, professor, and researcher, maintaining regular office hours until 2020. Dr. Matsushima battled bigotry and poverty on his path to becoming a legendary scientist in beef cattle nutrition whose innovations have influenced the global food system. We can't wait to share his story with a new generation of students.



*"Good food and good water equals a
good life." - Dr. John Matsushima*



PROJECT PURPOSE

To tell the story of Dr. John Matsushima through Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom's Literacy Project, an annual interactive learning experience where each participating class receives a FREE class kit complete with educational resources and enough supplies to complete hands-on activities with students. This program integrates agricultural themes

into PreK-12 instruction, connecting to academic standards for language arts, social studies, STEM, and AFNR. This project seeks to cultivate a love for reading while enhancing the understanding of agricultural concepts, ultimately fostering empowered and literate communities. A new topic and book, featuring Colorado agriculture stories, are chosen each year. This is a FREE program.

Elementary Class Kits:

- One copy of the new children's book "Cattle, Corn, and Courage - The Story of Dr. John Matsushima"
- Samples of dried ear field corn and steam-flaked corn with corresponding student activities
- Beef sticks tasting experience for students, teachers, and volunteers (1-ounce stick per person sourced from Beef Sticks for Backpacks made at Colorado State University by Ram Country Meats)
- 5-7 minute Q&A video with Dr. John Matsushima, produced by *Western Ag Network*
- Virtual Field Trip Video with *History Colorado*
- Additional student activities/educational resources on beef production, corn production, and Colorado history.
- One copy of the Literacy Project Colorado Ag Careers Magazine, published by *The Fence Post*
- Spanish translation of the children's book and student activities (minimally available electronically, ideally available in print with sufficient funding)

Teachers may request a volunteer guest reader to visit their classroom, read the book, complete a student activity, and talk about their connection to agriculture. CoAITC staff will recruit farmers, ranchers, agriculturalists, and FFA members to become volunteer guest readers and assist in coordinating the visits. Teachers may also opt to find their own guest reader or complete the project on their own.

Middle/High School (FFA/Ag Students)

Class Kits - NEW for 2025:

- One copy of the new children's book "Cattle, Corn, and Courage - The Story of Dr. John Matsushima"
- One copy per student of the Literacy Project Colorado Ag Careers Magazine, published by *The Fence Post*
- 30-40 minute mini-documentary style video on Dr. John Matsushima and his impact, produced by *Western Ag Network*
- Virtual Field Trip Video with *History Colorado*
- Additional student activities/educational resources on beef production, corn production, Colorado history, and agriculture careers

The purpose of the secondary kits is to expand the student impact of the CoAITC Literacy Project, promote career opportunities within Colorado agriculture, and encourage FFA students to complete the Literacy Project with elementary students in their districts.

**SIGN UP FORM OPENS IN THE FALL
OF 2024 AT COAGCLASSROOM.ORG**
Deadline: January 20, 2025

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact us.