

2024 National Agriculture in the Classroom Annual Report



Executive Director's Message

In 2024, National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) continued to provide premier professional development and classroom resources in agricultural literacy to teachers and students across the country. By supporting the efforts of the state and territory Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) programs, the nationwide impact nearly doubled from 2023 and is on pace to return to pre-pandemic numbers. The dedicated program staff, volunteers and enthusiastic educators from around the country have helped propel us along on our mission of increasing agricultural literacy.

We hosted the 2024 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, "Agriculture Elevated", in Salt Lake City, Utah in-person for more than 550 attendees. At the conference, eight teachers were honored with the 2024 National Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award for their innovative ways they use agricultural concepts in their classroom instruction. A virtual version of the conference was provided for 247 attendees in July 2024. Even though our grant funding was limited, NAITCO was still able to provide grant funding to state and territory AIRC programs for professional development, capacity building, and programming. Our partners at The National



Center for Agricultural Literacy continued the expansion of the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix, a searchable database of hundreds of preK-12 lessons and companion resources.

NAITCO leveraged the combined state budgets of approximately \$17.8 million with grant funding received from USDA/NIFA and financial support from valuable sponsors. We are truly grateful for all of our funding partners that help us accomplish our mission.

Together, we are showcasing agricultural opportunities and careers to future generations to have a better understanding of the food and fiber systems relied on every day. I look forward to an exciting future of helping teachers become more comfortable with the subject of agriculture.



Andy Guffey
Executive Director
National Agriculture in the Classroom

Looking Forward

NAITCO is excited about the upcoming year with the USDA/ NIFA grant funding approved. New projects to enhance program efforts for state and territory program leaders are in development and new professional development opportunities are being created for program leaders. The NAITCO team provides passion and years of experience in agricultural education and fundraising.



Andy Guffey
Executive Director



Randy Bernhardt
Development Director



Tessa Matuszak
Program Manager



Tonya Wible
Program Specialist



Audra Wyant
Outreach Coordinator



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agclassroom.org

By the Numbers

50

States and two territories
have Agriculture
in the Classroom
(AITC) programs

4,800,000 +

Students reached in 2024
by Agriculture in the
Classroom programs

24,000

Volunteer educators
impacted by AITC
state/territory programs
in 2024

130,000

preK-12 teachers trained
in agricultural literacy
by AITC state/territory
programs in 2024

The size and scope of AITC state and territory programs vary widely across the country. The NAITCO provides leadership at the national level to apply for federal grant funding to support a national website, a searchable database of standards-based lesson plans and resources, a national conference, a national teacher awards program for AITC state and territory programs, and professional development opportunities for AITC state and territory programs. In addition, it seeks sponsorships and partnerships with national agribusinesses and organizations with an interest in Pre-K-12 agricultural literacy.

