

Our mission is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among New Jersey educators and students. You can learn more on our website

newjersey.agclassroom.org



It's cranberry season in New Jersey!
Did you know that ripe cranberries bounce?
Farmers separate unripe cranberries from ripe ones by bouncing them on a machine called a separator or bounce board.



Lessons of the Month **Grades 3-5**

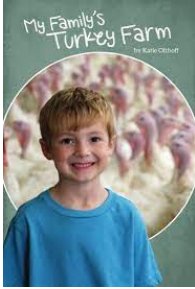
Check out our two new lessons that link math and engineering design to cranberries. In our [Cranberry Bounce Test](#) lesson, students predict how many of their cranberries will bounce, and then test and graph their results. In [Make a Cranberry Catapult](#), students work together to make simple catapults from craft sticks, wooden spools and rubber bands. Then they use their catapults to launch cranberries, measuring and graphing results. The lessons are aimed at upper elementary grades, but can easily be adapted for younger or older students. Grab a bag of fresh cranberries and launch some classroom fun!

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Could you use \$500 for your classroom agriculture projects?

CHS Foundation provides \$500 grants each year to PreK-12 teachers for classroom projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more. Eligible projects include classroom and schoolyard gardens, embryology projects, aquaculture projects, and agricultural literacy reading programs, just to name a few. Projects need to be completed by June 1. You must act fast, however, as the deadline to apply is November 15, 2024. Click [here](#) for more information and an application.





**My Family's
Turkey Farm**
By Katie Olthoff
Grades PreK-2

Meet Adam, a 6-year-old farm boy from central Iowa. Adam and his family live on a large turkey farm and raise more than 100,000 turkeys every year. Learn how farmers take care of turkeys through Adam's eyes, as he takes you on a virtual tour of his turkey farm. Read the digital book [here](#). Listen to the read-aloud [here](#).

Lessons of the Month
**The Geography of
Thanksgiving Dinner**
Grades 6-12

Do you know that venison was the meat of the first Thanksgiving feast, not turkey? Pumpkin pie and potatoes were not a part of the first Thanksgiving, which did not become an annual American tradition until 200 years after the pilgrims and Native Americans joined together for a feast.

In this lesson, students identify common Thanksgiving foods, determine if those foods can be produced locally, and locate the common origins of their Thanksgiving dinner. Click [here](#) for the lesson for grades 6-8 and [here](#) for grades 9-12.

Meet a New Jersey Farmer
Aimee Ashley Myers of Ashley Farms

Ashley Farms in Flanders specializes in home-grown turkeys.



**What is the most important
thing you want students to
know that you learned on
the farm?**

Hard work pays off. You may be exhausted and discouraged sometimes, but don't ever give up. Keep going, keep working.

Tell us your farm story.

My grandparents started our farm in 1948 with just a few turkeys and a bit of land. They expanded to start growing corn to feed the turkeys, and then other crops to sell directly to the public. Seventy-six years later, we now have four generations working on the farm. Yearly, we raise 7,000 turkeys, corn, tomatoes, pumpkins, and dozens of other crops. We have a year-round farm market that is quite successful.

**What is your favorite part of your
job?**

Working with my family and getting to know our customers. We feel that it's a very important honor to raise food that feeds families in our community and beyond.

What is your biggest challenge on your family farm?

Finding enough help to get all the work done. It takes a lot of hands to get it all done!

New Jersey Agriculture in the Classroom | 168 W State St. | Trenton, NJ 08608 US

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