

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



*Happy New Year
from New Jersey Agriculture
in the Classroom!*

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This month, take your ag explorations indoors and introduce your students to the ubiquitous soybean, one of New Jersey's top crops. Soy the super bean is used in food for people and animals, toiletries, crayons, candles, household cleaners, carseats, carpets, clothes, and more!

Use soybean oil to make ink and lip balm with your students, or send them home to do a soy scavenger hunt of their pantries. This vital crop is everywhere - Henry Ford once even used it to make a car.



Lessons of the Month

Soy the Super Bean Grades K-5

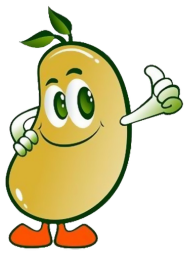
This lesson, which can be modified for all grades, introduces students to the soybean, an important crop that can replenish soil with nitrogen. Our PowerPoint presentation *Soy the Super Bean* shows how soy is used worldwide in a multitude of ways and how legumes like soy can capture nitrogen in the air and release it into tired soil.

Click [here](#) for our lesson that includes instructions for making soy ink and soy lip balm. Click [here](#) for our PowerPoint presentation *Soy the Super Bean*.

Are You New Jersey Agriculture in the Classroom's Teacher of the Year? Apply now!

Each year, the New Jersey Farm Bureau Women's Committee selects an NJAITC Teacher of the Year who excels at integrating teaching about agriculture into the teaching of other subjects such as math, language arts, or science.

Agricultural issues can support the teaching of many academic disciplines. Clothing, food, fuel, housing, and medicine are all rooted in agriculture.



Graphics courtesy of pngtree.com

Grow It Now, Drive It Later? Grades 6-8

In this lesson, students learn that biodiesel fuel, an alternative to petroleum fuel, is usually made from soybean oil. Biodiesel fuel can also be mixed with petroleum fuel to reduce the pollution from city and school buses.

In an accompanying experiment, students determine how much energy is produced by the soybean oil in half a Cheeto. Click [here](#) for the complete lesson.

Library Corner

Full of Beans Henry Ford Grows a Car By Peggy Thomas Grades 2-6

During the Great Depression, Henry Ford researched ways to use struggling farmers' crops in his Ford Motor Company. He discovered that the soybean was the perfect answer. Soon, Ford's cars contained many soybean plastic parts, and Ford incorporated soybeans into every part of his life. He ate soybeans, he wore clothes made of soybean fabric, and he even created a car made entirely out of soy.



*Colleen Ewing of Robert Hunter School
in Flemington
NJAITC 2024 Teacher of the Year*

Certified teachers teaching any grade from K-12 are encouraged to apply.

The 2025 NJAITC Teacher of the Year will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom annual conference, which will be held in Minneapolis on June 23 to June 26.

Agriculture is a crucial part of everyone's life. If you include agriculture in your teaching, let us know! Click [here](#) to apply to be our 2025 Teacher of the Year.

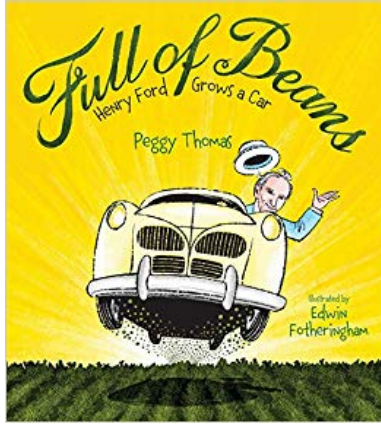


Lessons of the Month

Stacking up Milk and Milk Substitutes Grades 9-12

In this lesson, students will compare and contrast milk and plant-based milk substitutes by learning their source from farm-to-table and discovering how they "stack-up" in nutritional value.

Students will also explore food package labeling laws and consumer trends in milk consumption to think critically about



the impact of labels in marketing and consumer perceptions of food.

Click [here](#) for the complete lesson.

Meet a New Jersey Farmer Scott Clucas of Clucas Farms

Clucas Farms in Califon, Hunterdon County grows soybeans, corn, and hay.



Tell us your farm story.

My grandfather did well during the depression and bought a farm in Bedminster, Somerset County. But my dad, Fred, decided to go to college at Rutgers and eventually based the farming operation in Hunterdon County. I took over when my dad passed, 24 years ago.

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

Students today should know that you need patience to do any job. And that there is always something to learn on the farm.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is running equipment and harvesting, whether it's soybeans, hay, or corn.

What is your biggest challenge on your family farm?

I rent most of the acres that I farm, so the biggest challenge is losing farming ground, whether it is to development or landowners mandating farming practices that I disagree with. Also, farm viability is another big issue – I am making less money now than when I started 24 years ago.

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