



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

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It's Harvest Time for Cranberries in New Jersey!

One of the Garden State's last harvests of the year is also one of its biggest - cranberries! In fact, New Jersey is the third largest U.S. producer of cranberries. This tart fruit is grown in the sandy soil of the Pine Barrens, where bogs are flooded each fall. Farmers then knock the cranberries from the vines with a water reel nicknamed "the egg beater."

The cranberries float to the top and are gathered with a boom.

Where Does Your Thanksgiving Feast Come From?

Turkey, cranberries, potatoes, green beans, pumpkins, and apples - where are the stars of your Thanksgiving dinner grown?

With the Esri Thanksgiving StoryMap, students from late elementary to high school can map their favorite feast foods and find out how far they traveled to get to their tables.



From Brussel sprouts to pecans, the Esri Thanksgiving StoryMap shows students where the farms are that produced their holiday food. See the map [here](#).

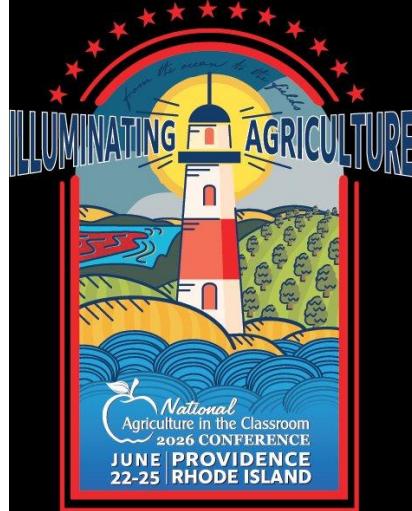
Apply for a Scholarship to Attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Annual Conference

National Agriculture in the Classroom's annual conference is the best place to learn how to integrate agriculture into your core curriculum. This year the conference is

being held June 22-25 in Providence, RI .

Scholarships are available for PreK-12 teachers that include conference registration and up to three nights lodging. (It does not include travel to and from the conference.)

Click [here](#) for the scholarship guidelines and application. The deadline to apply is December 15.



\$500 for a Classroom Ag Project Yes, Please!

There is still time to apply for a \$500 grant from CHS Foundation to fund a class agricultural project.

Forty \$500 grants will be awarded to teachers in grades PreK-12 for classroom projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and more.

Eligible projects include classroom and school gardens, embryology projects, aquaculture projects, and agricultural literacy reading programs to name a few. Projects must be completed by June 1, 2026. Applications are due by November 15. For more information and the grant application, click [here](#) .

Lessons of the Month

The Three Sisters *can be modified for all grades K-8*

Everyone knows that the Pilgrims only survived their first year with the help of Native Americans, who showed them how to grow food in an unfamiliar environment. You may even have learned that the Native Americans taught the Pilgrims to plant corn with dead fish buried beneath the seeds to serve as fertilizer.

But that's not the whole story. The Pilgrims were actually taught how to plant corn, beans, and squash together in a typical Native American Three Sisters garden.

Our lesson on the Three Sisters shows students how these three crops grow



Younger students can act out how corn, beans, and squash grow together, while older students can discuss the legends surrounding Three Sisters gardening and its history with the Pilgrims.

Extend the lesson further and plant corn, beans, and squash in a container in your classroom, so your students can see

easily together, are highly nutritious, and can be stored for long periods.

The lesson includes four different versions of Three Sisters legends that students can read and compare.

firsthand how the Three Sisters grow together.

For the entire lesson and all resources, click [here](#).

Teach these lessons with a bag of cranberries



Why Do Cranberries Float? Grades PreK-2

Cranberries float! Students investigate why this berry, as well as some other fruits and veggies, will float to the top of a tub of water, while others sink to the bottom.

Click [here](#) for the lesson.



The Cranberry Bounce Test Grades 3-5 *can be modified for older students*

Ripe cranberries bounce! Farmers use this characteristic to separate unripe cranberries from ripe cranberries after harvest. In this lesson, students test for the bounciness of a group of cranberries, estimating, observing, and separating the cranberries, and using fractions.

Click [here](#) for the lesson.

Cranberry Graphing Grades 2-5

Students learn how cranberries are grown and harvested, sample three different cranberry juices, and predict and graph the ones they like best and least.

Click [here](#) for the lesson.



Make a Cranberry Catapult Grades 3-5 *can be modified for older students*

In this engineering design lesson, students work in small groups to create a simple cranberry catapult.

They measure the distances their catapult can fling a cranberry, then graph and compare results.

Click [here](#) for the lesson.

NJ Ag in a Box: Cranberries



New Jersey Agriculture in the Classroom's new *NJ Ag in a Box* program provides teachers in grades 3-5 with materials to teach a lesson each season about one of New Jersey's top crops. The topic for winter is cranberries.

The cranberries ag box includes plans for the Cranberry Bounce and Make a Cranberry Catapult lessons, along with all the materials for a full class to do them. The box also includes the book *Time for Cranberries* by Lisl H. Detlefsen, and a set of 30 ag mags on Specialty Crops.

The cost for each box is \$30: \$20 for materials and \$10 for shipping.

For more information about *NJ Ag in a Box*, click [here](#).

To order ag boxes for your classroom or your school, click [here](#).

Why are they called cranberries?



Early American settlers called these round red berries "craneberries," because they thought the plant's flowers looked like the head of a crane. What do you think? The name was later shortened to cranberry.



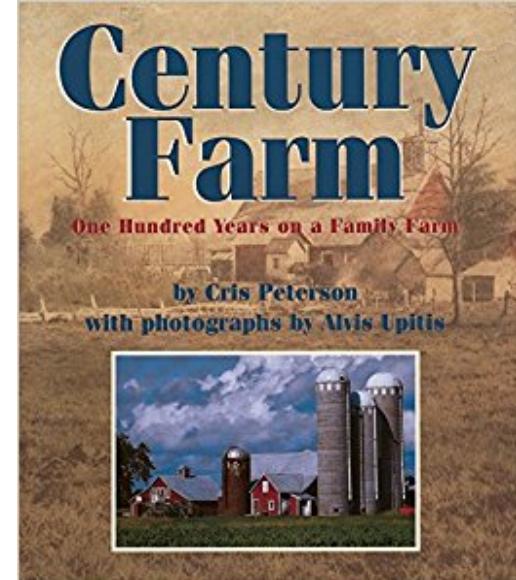
Library Corner

Century Farm By Chris Peterson Grades 2-5

A Century Farm is a farm that has been continuously worked for 100 years by the same family. In this book, the author shares the story of her husband's family farm as it grew from a barn, house, and granary in the 1890s to a thriving dairy farm today.

There are many Century Farms in New Jersey. Is there one near you?

Click [here](#) for the lesson.



November Ag Gag

Why did the cranberry miss the Thanksgiving party?

It was bogged down with homework!

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!



New Jersey Agriculture in the Classroom

How do YOU ag?

Show us how you use ag lessons in your classroom and enter to win our giveaway: an accurate ag book and lesson to teach about it.

enter via email to njagliteracy@gmail.com

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