

2026 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Contest

DEADLINE: January 9, 2026

AITC TEACHER OF THE YEAR CONTEST:

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is pleased to announce the **2026 Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year** contest. This competitive contest will focus statewide attention on the critical role of teaching. Ag in the Classroom (AITC) will honor one **Pre-K-12th grade** Oklahoma teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts into non-vocational agriculture classroom settings. *Note: In accordance with the National AITC Contest rules, teachers of high school agricultural education or career and technical education are not eligible to apply for this award.*

Applications are invited for this year's award. **The deadline for completed applications is January 9, 2026.** Please apply by completing the google form (found at the QR code and link below):



OR <https://forms.gle/nbDb3NC6aXxF1L2N6>

Who can apply for the 2026 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year?

Educators who meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Certified teachers currently engaged in PreK-12th non-vocational agriculture classroom instruction
- ❖ Teachers who have attended AITC professional development and/or the AITC summer professional development

The Purpose of Ag in the Classroom:

The purpose of Ag in the Classroom is building agriculture literacy. Curriculum developed to that end uses agriculture-related activities and research-based background material to teach pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade core curriculum in language arts, math, science, reading, social studies and the visual arts.

What is the Ag in the Classroom 2026 Teacher of the Year Award?

- ❖ **One PreK-12th grade teacher** will be recognized for his/her creative efforts to teach students about the importance of agriculture and **will be named 2025 AITC Teacher of the Year (TOY).**
- ❖ Award presentation date and location TBD.
- ❖ The AITC TOY will receive a plaque & cash prizes valued at approximately \$2000 which will include: registration, travel & accommodations to attend the 2025 AITC National Conference in Rhode Island on June 22-25, 2026.
- ❖ During the summer AITC professional development tours, workshops, and state conference, the AITC TOY will share his/her AITC teaching experiences.
- ❖ AITC staff will work with the AITC TOY to produce social media engagement posts.

Criteria for Selection

Teachers must integrate/utilize agricultural information within their classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Teachers should highlight how they are using AITC lessons, activities, and resources to share their passion for agriculture with their students. Innovative, integrated, and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Educator Narrative:** Share your "Ag in the Classroom Story." Suggested ideas to include: How did you become involved with AITC? What lessons and activities do you utilize in your classroom? How has using AITC made a difference in your teaching career? Why do you have a passion to educate your students about agriculture? In what AITC training opportunities have you participated? **25 points**
- **Creativity and utilization of agricultural information:** Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning about agriculture. Evidence of your impact on student attitudes towards agriculture should be evident. Suggested ideas to include: How has using AITC impacted your students' lives? What creative ideas have you added to the AITC lessons to make them your own? How do you involve parents, the community, or students outside your classroom? Share how you use grants, community extensions, etc. in your classroom. **25 points**
- **Interdisciplinary approach:** Share how you teach agricultural concepts in a variety of subjects and disciplines. Value will be placed on teaching agriculture across the curriculum, however if you teach a content specific subject, such as biology or art, then share how you use AITC to expand your content and also encourage students to see agriculture as it relates to not only your subject, but others as well. **25 points**
- **Documentation and photos:** Show evidence of using AITC lessons, resources, and activities in your classroom by including photographs of students engaged in AITC activities, news articles, photos of bulletin boards related to agriculture literacy, community outreach, school newsletters, grant award letters, etc. **20 pts**
- **Formatting of application:** The degree to which the applicant has completed the application in accordance to the instructions. **5pts**

Evaluation of Applications

A panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education and AITC will evaluate all applications.

Submission of Applications

Submit the following:

- Completed Application found at the following link: <https://forms.gle/nbDb3NC6aXxF1L2N6>
- Link can also be accessed from the Ag in the Classroom Website

Deadline of completed applications is January 9, 2026