

Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Connecting Children to Agriculture

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Connecting with Teachers





Virginia teacher of the year receives national award



2,000
educators attended
77 professional
development
trainings



Grant projects will bring agriculture to life for 36,000 children

TOP LEFT: Virginia Beach teachers enjoyed classroom instruction and the chance to be hands-on with AITC lessons. MIDDLE: Jennifer Massengill and her students release butterflies and ladybugs as the culmination of a pollinator project. TOP RIGHT: Strasburg High School's FFA chapter used grant funding to further agricultural literacy outreach at their local elementary school. Students created displays featuring livestock to introduce younger students to farm animals.

Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Massengill, a science and technology teacher at Hampton Roads Academy, was named Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom's 2018 Teacher of the Year. Massengill went on to be named a National Agriculture in the Classroom Teaching in Excellence about Agriculture award recepient, a distinction that has been earned by Virginia's winner in four of the last five years. "Jennifer uses her extensive school garden as the jumpingoff point for real-life, hands-on examples to demonstrate required core curriculum such as science, technology and language arts." said Tammy Maxey, AITC senior education manager. "Through Jennifer's efforts, her students are gaining a greater appreciation for agriculture, as well as an improved understanding that food begins on the farm."

Professional Development

This year, more than 2,000 educators attended 77 professional development trainings across Virginia. These teachers took away tangible classroom resources, agriculture—themed lesson plans, and ideas for how to help their students understand why agriculture is important to them.

Classroom Grants

Through the classroom grants program, 50 educators across Virginia received \$250-\$500 of funding to support projects like school gardens, incubators and farm fun days. These projects will bring agriculture to life for 36,000 children over the next three years.

50
educators across
Virginia received
grant funding



Connecting with Volunteers





Over 1,000
volunteers
read to more than
60,000
children

Volunteers shared an agricultural experience with

110,000 children



TOP LEFT: Volunteers connect to children in a way that is unique and special. Children remember meeting "a real, live farmer" and their understanding of agriculture expands when our volunteers visit their classrooms. "These Bees Count" was AITC's 2018 book of the year, highlighting the importance of pollinators in our food supply. BOTTOM RIGHT: More than 1,400 students attended Hanover Ag Days in October. Presenter, Frances Redford, leads students to match top Virginia commodities with products we use everyday.

Agriculture Literacy Project

In 2018, over 1,000 volunteers read "These Bees Count" to more than 2,800 classrooms. This effort allowed 60,000 children in Virginia to experience a direct connection to agriculture. Children learned how bees make honey and how pollinators play an important role in our food supply.



Community Events

Community outreach is one of the most important efforts Agriculture in the Classroom supports. Last year, volunteers shared an agricultural experience with 110,000 children at more than 100 events including fairs, festivals, farm days, and career days. These community settings allow children and families to learn together. Face-to-face interactions connect children to the incredible world of agriculture that is around them every day.



Volunteers connect to children in a way that is unique and special.

Connecting with Children







Over 10,000 children were connected through agriculture

to STEM



AITC connected with 60,000 children at the State Fair



TOP LEFT: Members of the Signal Knob Middle School FFA Chapter complete the "Ag is Everywhere" puzzle at the 2017 State Fair of Virginia. More than 60,000 students visited the State Fair over nine days. BOTTOM LEFT: Visitors to AITC's display included Governor Terry McAuliffe, pictured here with Jessica Pittman, 2017 Virginia AITC Teacher of the Year. MIDDLE: Virginia AITC at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in April 2018 in Washington, D.C. BOTTOM RIGHT: AITC teacher resources are a great back to school gift.

251 teachers were adopted by supporters

Adopt-A-Teacher

Our Adopt-A-Teacher campaign provides agriculture materials to local teachers at the beginning of the school year. Each kit features curriculum and classroom friendly resources along with a teacher gift. In 2017, 251 teachers in communities around the state were "adopted" by local AITC supporters.

State Fair of Virginia

AITC connected 60,000 children at the State Fair of Virginia, making this the largest direct-to-student event for our program. AITC partnered with Virginia Farm Bureau to offer children an experience driving a virtual tractor in a farm simulator.

STEM Events

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are a big part of today's agriculture. At the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington D.C., AITC teamed up with the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture to share agriculture's innovative story with student attendees. In total, over 10,000 children were connected through agriculture to STEM.

Tractors for AITC



Tractors for Agriculture in the Classroom started as an initiative of Mecklenburg County Farm Bureau as a fun way to raise money for AITC. In 2017, over \$2,700 was donated by farmers who made a pledge for every hour they spent in the tractor seat.

Connecting through Special Events





Golf tournament raised more than \$43,000







Clay shooting event raised nearly \$11,000

TOP & BOTTOM LEFT: AITC's 25th anniversary was the perfect reason for stakeholders, board members and supporters to dress up and celebrate agricultural literacy. MIDDLE: Members of the James River Equipment golf team participated in a putting challenge, using gardening equipment. TOP RIGHT: AITC supporters in the Shenandoah Valley and Southwest Virginia enjoyed some beautiful Fall weather while participating in the annual clay shooting benefit for the Foundation.

Red Barn Ball— Celebrating 25 years of AITC

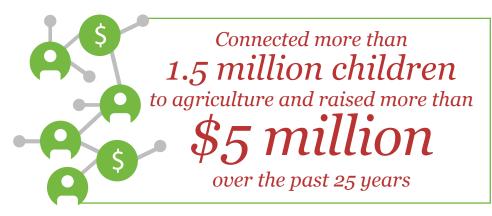
Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom celebrated its silver anniversary with an evening of drinks, dinner, and dancing. The Red Barn Ball took place on November 27, 2017 at The Lodge in Williamsburg Virginia with 225 guests in attendance. The evening celebration featured a cocktail reception with Virginia's Finest products, a banquet dinner and live entertainment. In the past 25 years, Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom has connected more than 1.5 million children to agriculture and raised more than \$5 million to support agricultural literacy.

22nd Annual Golf Tournament

On May 7th, supporters hit the links for agricultural literacy programs. A host of sponsors and 32 teams raised more than \$43,000.

2nd Annual Clays Across the Commonwealth

In October, sportsmen took aim in support of agriculture's future. Teams at the Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays in Mt. Crawford and Kettlefoot Gun Club in Bristol raised nearly \$11,000 for program advancement.



Donors

Tributes

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Laurie and Tim Coulter

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Virginia Peanut Growers Association

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Steward **\$50,000**+



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CFB= County Farm Bureau FBWC= Farm Bureau Women's Committee SWCD= Soil and Water Conservation District VFB= Virginia Farm Bureau

Grower \$5,000-\$9,999

Chesterfield FBWC

Farmers and Merchants Bank

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Virginia Corn Board

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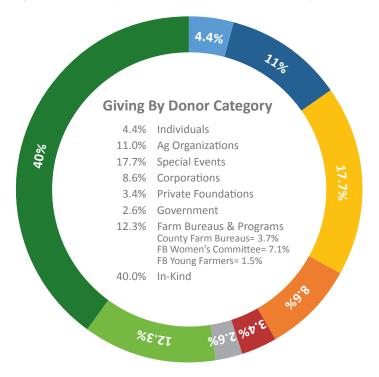
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Financials

Because of your generosity our Foundation experienced a year of tremendous growth, reaching a record high of connecting over 300,000 children to agriculture. Your past, present and future support enables the great work of our Foundation and ensures agricultural literacy thrives in our communities. Thank you!



Direct Revenue Contributions & Grants Gross Profit from Sales Investment Income Direct Expenses	\$369,676 \$351,942 \$2,689 \$15,045 \$347,749
Professional Educator Programs & Resouces Classroom Grants Student & Community Initiatives Direct Development *Excluding all in-kind	\$220,780 \$25,662 \$25,997 \$75,310
In-Kind	\$234,615
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Other In-Kind gifts	\$216,270 \$18,345

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