

# Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## REPORT CARD



Winter 2010

### Your Gifts are Sending “Cows, Horses and Chickens” to School!

*No animals have actually attended school, but with your help Agriculture in the Classroom is telling agriculture’s story to Virginia teachers and students.*

Have you sent a cow to school? Or let your chicken ride the school bus? Does your horse have a library card? If you have donated to Agriculture in the Classroom, then you can answer, “Yes!”

As you know, Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) connects farms to school through education. AITC provides Virginia teachers with training, lessons and resources so they can incorporate agriculture into their classrooms—all in support of Virginia state educational standards!

Why is this so important? Many of today’s teachers and students have little or no contact with agriculture. They are generations removed from the farm growing up in urban and suburban areas with little understanding of where their



*Teachers in Halifax County enjoyed hands-on activities that were classroom-ready at their workshop in August.*

food and fiber comes from and how agriculture touches their lives every day.

Between July 1 and December 31, 1,491 educators attended AITC workshops, 10,853 individuals visited the AITC Web

site and 10,000 copies of an educational newsletter on animal welfare were mailed to teachers across Virginia. Through all of these projects, AITC is reaching classrooms and children are learning about the importance of agriculture in Virginia. Your support makes it happen!

*“When you think of agriculture, you don’t think of how you can use it in school subjects, but you made agriculture fun & educational.  
~ Rockingham County Elementary School Teacher*



*Since Dottie the Cow doesn’t go to school, how do Virginia students learn about agriculture? With your help through Agriculture in the Classroom! AITC brings “agriculture to school” by providing teachers with training and materials so they can incorporate agriculture into math, science, language arts and social studies lessons. To see the “Cows Don’t Go to School” video visit the AITC Web site at [www.AglInTheClass.org](http://www.AglInTheClass.org). Please share this video with your friends and family and consider making a donation on-line to send your own cow to school!*



*Presenter Tammy Maxey demonstrates a mapping and graphing activity to pre-service teachers at Lynchburg College.*

## How Does my Donation Make a Difference?

Each gift to AITC is greatly appreciated and very much needed!

What did your contributions accomplish?

- 1,491 teachers received training and materials between 7/1/2009-12/31/2009.
- 10,000 newsletters on animal welfare have been printed and are being distributed.
- Almost 11,000 visitors have accessed the AITC Web site looking for lessons on agriculture since July 1, 2009.

As you read through the newsletter, you will see comments from workshop evaluations that have made by teachers who have attended training. Workshops and materials are free to teachers and school divisions, due your generous donations. So when you read a comment that thanks AITC for the wonderful workshop and resources—it is a thank you to you for your support of AITC and belief that all students should know where their food and fiber come from. Your gift has made a difference!

***“All of the activities were useful & interesting. I discovered some fun ideas that changed my perception of agriculture from something boring to something interesting.”*** —Richmond City educator

## Virginia Department of Education Reviews Science Standards of Learning — AITC Staff On-Hand

Virginia’s Standards of Learning for each subject area are reviewed by the Virginia Department of Education on a rolling basis to keep them current and applicable for today’s students. In October, AITC Education Coordinator Lynn Stadelmeier attended a work session held at the Department of Education to review current science standards and possible changes. The consensus of the working group was there should be a focus on critical thinking, problem-solving, and application skills. It does not appear that any current references to agriculture in the Standards will be taken out or changed.

This is the beginning of the review process that will conclude with a final review in 2010 and implementation in the following school year. AITC Educational staff will continue to monitor the process and update AITC lessons and activities for the new school year as needed.

***“This was excellent! I knew “farms” are important but this provided additional information. The presenter’s enthusiasm added to the importance & fun of the information presented.***  
~ Regional Workshop at Loudoun Farm Museum Elementary School Teacher

***“I already had a positive perception [about agriculture]. The workshop has enabled me to better pass that on to students who know less first hand than I do. Terrific presenters, high quality materials that use a variety of methods. Easily become interdisciplinary lessons to link students knowledge.”***

***~ Virginia Beach  
Elementary School Teacher***



***Teachers assemble a sample “Apple Chain” showing each step of the apple life cycle and the importance of bees to pollination.***





Learning new hands-on activities is one of the things teachers like about AITC workshops. Sym-moo-try Cows are a great example!



Teachers at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens learn strategies for teaching area and perimeter through "Discover An Acre."

## Ways to Give

Your generosity enables AITC's success. We are always grateful to receive your support. You can always mail a check to the Foundation, but did you know you can also donate online? From the main AITC Web page, click on "Donors" at the top and then click on "Give To AITC" on the left side of the page. From there, make an online donation using "Just Give" at the bottom of the page. This type of donation can be set up to be recurring on a monthly basis. If you are interested in giving monthly (or quarterly) to AITC but prefer to give via check, AITC is happy to send you envelopes for your donations and can even arrange to email you a giving reminder. Please contact Development Director Kelly Pious at 804-290-1144 or [Kelly.pious@vafb.com](mailto:Kelly.pious@vafb.com) to discuss further.

## Thank You to our Legacy Society Members

Agriculture in the Classroom extends a heartfelt "Thank you" to those donors who have chosen to make a gift to Agriculture in the Classroom through their estates. These gifts will ensure that part of your legacy will extend beyond your lifetime to teach Virginia's children about the importance of agriculture. If you would like more information about ways to make a gift to AITC through your estate, please contact Development Director Kelly Pious at 804-290-1144 or [Kelly.pious@vafb.com](mailto:Kelly.pious@vafb.com). If you have more specific questions about your estate plans, Virginia Farm Bureau provides members with estate planning services at no cost. Contact our offices for more information.

**Fourth grade students make good use of AITC materials. These students took part in AITC's promotion video, "Cows Don't Go to School" and were happy to demonstrate their use of some favorite lessons and resources.**



We always love to hear from you! Contact us:  
Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom  
P.O. Box 27552  
Richmond, VA 23261

Office: 804-290-1141 Email: [aitc@vafb.com](mailto:aitc@vafb.com)  
Web: [www.agintheclass.org](http://www.agintheclass.org)