

FCAE Initiatives Funded Through the Illinois Agriculture Education Line Item

Agricultural Literacy County Coalition Grants: Grants to county Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) partnerships to conduct classroom presentations on Illinois' largest industry – Agriculture.

On-Site Technical Assistance: FCAE staff provides regular on-site technical assistance to county Agriculture in the Classroom coordinators, secondary agriculture teachers, and postsecondary agriculture instructors.

Agriculture Teacher Professional Development: Numerous professional development workshops (IAVAT conference, 212 conference, District workshops, and others) are offered for high school agriculture teachers designed to improve their technical knowledge and teaching effectiveness.

Ag Ed 499 - Beginning Agriculture Teachers Course: Graduate course for inexperienced teachers (with 0-5 years of experience) is offered to supply young teachers with the skills necessary to be effectual teachers.

Agriculture Mechanics Graduate Course: Graduate course for teachers to develop and/or enhance their skills in several areas of agricultural mechanics such as electricity, construction, welding, and small engines.

Elite Conference: A conference for 50+ high school agriculture students that is designed to encourage them to consider agriculture teaching as a profession.

Student Teaching Grants: \$1000 mini-grants to student teachers in agricultural education who intend to accept agriculture teaching positions in Illinois.

Improving Agricultural Education Programs Grant: Competitive mini-grants to school districts to improve their AgriScience laboratory, Agricultural Mechanics laboratory, or to upgrade the agriculture program's use of technology.

Curriculum and Instructional Resources: Development and revision of curriculum and instructional resources which are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. The curriculum and resources provide students with technical content necessary to prepare for a career in agriculture and also assesses achievement of academic proficiency.

- a) **Animal and Plant Science:** A new library of lessons that will be specifically designed to address the Next Generation Science Standards. **Currently in development.**
- b) **Power, Structural, and Technical I Mechanics Curriculum:** Project to update and revise the lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, and E-units in the current Agricultural Mechanics library. **Now Available at MyCAERT.com**
- c) **Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources:** Project to update the lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations and E-units in the current AgriScience library. **Now available at MyCAERT.com**