



GEORGIA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM 2026 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026

SPONSORED BY:

*Georgia Foundation for Agriculture
Georgia Electric Membership Corporation*

The purpose of the award is to recognize a Georgia educator for his/her excellent job in incorporating agriculture into the Georgia standards for teaching. Agriculture is an important part of life for all. Clothing, food, fuel, housing, medicine, and more are rooted in agriculture. Agricultural concepts can support the teaching of many academic disciplines as well as programs such as STEM, STEAM, and STREAM.

The deadline for submitting applications is **May 15, 2026**. The winner will win a trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in June 2027. Visit the National Agriculture in the Classroom [website](#) for more information about the conference.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Certified teachers currently engaged in integrating agricultural concepts into non-vocational agriculture classroom settings at the pre-K through 12th grade levels are eligible. (*Note: High school/middle school/elementary school agriculture educators are not eligible for this award.*)

WHAT WILL THE WINNER RECEIVE?

The winning teacher will receive a \$500 award and have up to \$1,500 of their related expenses paid to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference June 2027. (This includes single air fare or mileage, hotel room, and conference registration as determined by the GFB AITC Manager.) Specific instructions and logistics will be provided upon winning the award. *Note: Funds may only be used for allowable travel expenses incurred by recipient. They are not to be used to cover the costs of recipient's guests to the conference.*

The winning teacher will be invited to accept his/her award at the Georgia Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at Jekyll Island in December 2026. (One night's lodging, one day per diem and mileage will be paid.) The winner will also be asked to present a workshop at the Women in Ag Summit (one day per diem and travel expenses will be paid).

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION?

Teachers must use and show evidence of the use of agricultural information and/or materials within the classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Instruction may include but is not limited to the following.

- understanding the importance and value of agriculture in students' daily lives;
- understanding the relationships among agriculture, food, and fiber production, animals, health, energy systems, technology, economics and the environment;
- identifying and understanding the connections between academic content areas and agricultural careers include, but not limited to, STEM careers;
- understanding the overall connectedness between STEM and agriculture.

Innovative, integrated, and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged. To earn this distinction, the selected applicant should include numerous, varied evidence of the teachers' infusion of agricultural concepts throughout the curriculum and school year.

Resubmissions

Unsuccessful nominees from previous years may be resubmitted. Prior winners of this award are ineligible for future awards under this program.

EVALUATION CRITERIA*

A. EDUCATOR NARRATIVE	25 POINTS
The degree to which an educator exemplifies leading instruction on accurate agriculture knowledge, attitudes, and skills and demonstrates teaching excellence in gaining student understanding of selected agricultural literacy theme(s). Grants, community extensions, professional development relating to the narrative topic for other educators, and awards for teaching about narrative content will also be considered. (4-page limit)	
B. LESSON PLAN	25 POINTS
The degree to which accurate agricultural concepts have been integrated into a standards-based education plan, which includes a critical thinking element and demonstrates for the learner a deeper understanding of the relationship between agricultural systems, individuals, and the world. (6-page limit)	
C. EDUCATION PRACTICES	25 POINTS
The degree to which the educator utilizes formal education practices for integrated, innovative, standards-based lesson plan with demonstrated understanding of accurate agricultural literacy.	
D. DOCUMENTATION AND PHOTOS	20 POINTS
The degree to which photos and other documentation exhibit excellence in agricultural literacy methods used by the applicant, to include but not limited to: news articles, bulletin board examples relating to agricultural literacy, community outreach, school newsletters, grant award letters, etc. (7-page limit)	
E. FORMATTING OF APPLICATION	5 POINTS
The degree to which the applicant has completed the application in accordance to the instructions.	

**A panel of judges familiar with agriculture, education, and AITC will evaluate all applications. Name and county will be removed from the application for judging.*

HOW CAN APPLICATIONS BE SUBMITTED?

Applications must be submitted online at gfb.ag/teacheraward. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, May 15, 2026**.

The winner will be notified in August/September. The Georgia Farm Monitor will visit the school to interview and produce a story about the winning teacher and his or her project.

WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE APPLICATION?

Educator Narrative: (four-page limit, 12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins): Describe methods of integrating and instructing one or more of the following National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes in the teacher's classroom. How is the theme (or themes) used to increase agricultural literacy? Note on the first line of the narrative which theme(s) is addressed. *Do not use any identifying information (name, county, school) in your narrative.*

1. Agriculture and the Environment
2. Plants and Animals for Food, Fiber and Energy
3. Animal Welfare, Safety, and Housing Systems
4. Food, Health, and Lifestyle
5. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
6. Culture, Society, Economy and Geography

For additional information on the national agricultural literacy themes visit: <https://www.agfoundation.org/pillars>

Exemplary Lesson Plan: (six-page limit, single-spaced 12-point font, one-inch margins): Submit one lesson plan which illustrates your agriculture literacy teaching method as described in the narrative. *Do not use any identifying information (name, county, school) in your narrative.* Please include the following content, according to the order below, in your lesson plan:

- Title of the lesson
- Brief purpose of the lesson
- Grade level(s) addressed
- Time length of lesson
- Objective of the lesson
- Standards addressed (limit your state's addressed standards list to no more than ½ page)
- National Agricultural Literacy Expectations addressed (click [here](#) for additional information)
- Materials list
- Vocabulary or keywords
- Instructor procedure
- Additional resources which you feel enhance the lesson
- Assessment (list 5 essential questions that students should understand and be able to answer after having been taught the lesson)

Documentation and Photos: Applicants compile photos and other documentation of instruction on agricultural literacy. Please use quality images and add a brief caption at the bottom of each photo to describe the activity.

- A maximum of four links to external documentation may be used. These links can include websites, news articles, teacher webpages, press releases, videos, etc.
- No links to file drives containing multiple files will be accepted.
- A maximum of 24 photos may be used.

Supplementary Materials:

- A letter of recommendation from the school principal or school system administrator
- A letter of recommendation from County Farm Bureau
- One paragraph biographical sketch

FORMATTING THE APPLICATION FOR SUBMISSION:

- Use a 12-point font, double-spaced on the narrative and single-spaced on the lesson plan (double spacing maybe used on the lesson plan where it is appropriate). Use one-inch margins.
- Each applicant should clearly label the parts of their application and submit each document as a separate PDF file with the following name for each document: Name, document title.
 - o Example:
 - Jane Doe Letter of Support by Principal (PDF)
 - Jane Doe Narrative (PDF)
 - Jane Doe Lesson Plan (PDF)
 - Jane Doe Documentation and Photos (PDF)
 - Jane Doe Statement of Release (PDF)
 - Jane Doe Headshot (JPEG, PNG)

All applications will be screened for adherence to format guidelines prior to review by judges. *Applications not meeting formatting guidelines are subject to disqualification.*

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QUESTIONS:

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