

2016-17 Annual Report



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

2017 IMPACT



82% of Public School Buildings utilized AITC materials



15% of Rock Island County Students received some form of AITC education



37% of Teachers received resources from Rock Island County Ag in the Classroom



22% of Rock Island County 2nd & 3rd grade students participated in AgXPerience

In 2016-17 Rock Island County Agriculture in the Classroom (RIAITC) reached 15 percent (3988) of students in classrooms in the county. The program also reached 731 educators in the county's public schools. Further, an estimated 716 adults learned about agriculture through public events and programs. Rock Island County Agriculture in the Classroom achieved these numbers by offering the following programs and activities in Rock Island County.

Teacher In-Service/Trainings

The 2016 Summer Ag Institute included ten teachers. Participants earned either three graduate credits from Aurora University or CPDU credits from the Rock Island Regional Office of Education. Participants of the Summer Ag Institute get a first-hand look at area businesses and companies in order to learn more about how each company or business relates back to agriculture. Teachers are also presented with information and demonstrations so that they can take their thoughts and ideas back to their classrooms to share with their students.



Community Events/Programs

Rock Island Agriculture in the Classroom participated in a number of Community events in 2016 and 2017.

In July, the John Deere Pavilion hosts a Learn & Play Day. The AITC program has facilitated a booth for a number of years on this day. In 2016 we utilized our Ag Careers Photo Booth at the event.



AgXPerience continues to be a successful program for Agriculture in the Classroom. Almost 900 second and third grade students in Rock Island County attended AgXPerience. These students learned about dairy, beef, pigs, sheep, horses, chickens, machinery, soil, and pollinators. Students also had the opportunity to tour John Deere Pavilion during their field trip. We have utilized three FFA Chapters to help us instruct the elementary students during the make and take stations.

Finally, a feature started in 2008 continued into 2016-17. The agriculture literacy coordinator sends a monthly newsletter to all SAI alumni highlighting specific themes each month. Each month there are lessons and links pertaining to each theme that the teachers can easily access via the internet. On average, 130 teachers receive the newsletter each month.



Material Offering (Ag Mags, Kit Borrowing, etc.)

Thirty seven teachers in grades Pre-K through High School have utilized Ag Mags or mAGic Kits this year. Our most popular request is the Poultry Kit. We had a record 12 incubators out in classrooms at one point this spring. Activity kits are a new addition to AITC. These are kits that contain one or two simple activities along with a couple of correlating lessons. They seem to be more adaptable for many teachers instead of the larger mAGic or learning kits. Ag Mags of various topics are requested throughout the year.

School Programs/Presentations

A small part of Rock Island Agriculture in the Classroom is classroom visits. Classroom visits have evolved into afterschool programs and special events in various schools throughout Rock Island County.

Western District Library Summer Reading Program hosted RIAITC with a program on inventions and youth present were able to create a plow and made structures using corn packing peanuts.

This year RIAITC was invited to participate in a junior high career expo. The Career Expo was held at Glenview Junior High in East Moline. Approximately 65 eighth grade students stopped to ask questions about potential careers in agriculture.

The Rock Island County Master Gardeners have continued their Horticulture Outreach program. Each month of the school year they visit nearly 1000 students in numerous classrooms to offer an activity and lesson for students. Topics in 2016-17 included Groundhog's Day, Soybeans, Corn, Earth Day, Pollination, and May Day.

In 2017, Rockridge FFA and Ag in the Classroom partnered to bring agriculture to 3rd, 4th and 5th grades at Andalusia Elementary. FFA members practice the lesson and presented to nine classrooms throughout the day (approximately 270 students). We also reached out to Riverdale FFA and conducted a similar lesson using ten high school FFA members to the fourth grade classrooms at Riverdale Elementary. Approximately 90 students participated in Ag Pictionary presented by the FFA.

This year we partnered with the 4-H Program to bring Teens Teachers-Farm to Table Camp to Rock Island County youth. Eight teens from the metro Quad Cities learned about Rock Island County Agriculture and presented lessons to students at the Martin Luther King Center, and the Spring Forward programs, both in Rock Island. Approximately 80 students were in attendance each week for activities. Each day of the camp focused on a different agricultural topic. Livestock, Environment, Technology, Grain Production, and a visit to the County Fair completed the week.



List of programs and activities

- Summer Ag Institute
- John Deere Learn & Play Day
- Quad City River Bandits-Celebrate Agriculture Night
- Summer Library Programs
- Back to School Packets for teachers
- Coloring Books
- Lessons & Links (August-May)
- Teacher Advisory Meetings (quarterly)
- Ag Mags (as requested)
- AgXPerience
- Hort Outreach (Groundhog Day, Soybeans, Corn, Earth Day, May Day)
- Glenview school-career expo
- Presentations with Rockridge FFA
- Presentations with Riverdale FFA
- Incubators
- Activity Kits
- Teens Teachers, Farm to Table Camp



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