

I've been working on what to say as a goodbye/thank you for three weeks, and I still have no idea what to say. And now that I'm down to my last day, I HAVE to put something down, even if I still don't know what to say.

First, to the students, teachers, administration, volunteers, board members, and community members who have participated in an Ag in the Classroom program at some point since 2008-THANK YOU! Thank you for taking a chance on an activity that you may not have known much about. Thank you for being willing to learn something, try something, and do something. It may not have always worked the way we envisioned, but success can still be found in failure.

My goal as Ag literacy coordinator has been to educate EVERYONE about agriculture, both inside and outside the classroom. I've believed for a long time that not only do students need to learn about where their food comes from but that students could also be our biggest advocates and educate their parents about agriculture from the things they learned through agriculture in the classroom. Everyone could use a refresher on where their food, fiber, and fuel comes from, once in a while. I also believe that learning outside of the classroom is just as important as learning inside the classroom. I think that this spring's school closures due to COVID-19 prove that point.

Please continue to learn about agriculture-from the agriculture experts, not the latest or greatest celebrity fad. Ask questions to real people, don't just ask Google. Even if you are not in school anymore, don't stop learning. There's always a new or different way to do something instead of the way you've always done it. Become a better consumer by learning about the better production practices available.

Again, thank you for the past 12+ years. I've liked most of it, loved some of it, and rolled my eyes in exasperation at a very small amount of it! Consider that a win! The Farm Bureau is keeping the Ag in the Classroom program active, so please continue to use it!

--Sheryl