



Minnesota
Agriculture in the
Classroom, Inc.
Foundation

**NRCS Partnership
2025**



Ann Marie Ward

Executive Director, Minnesota Agriculture
in the Classroom, Inc. Foundation



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom

- **Vision:** Agriculture is Valued by ALL
- **Mission:** Increasing Agricultural Literacy through K-12 Education
- An agriculturally literate person understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life.



Organization Structure



MINNESOTA
Agriculture in the Classroom



DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



Minnesota Agriculture in the
Classroom, Inc. Foundation



Our Team

is comprised of both state and foundation staff.



Sue Knott

Education Specialist
MDA



Jessica Blosberg

Resource Specialist
Foundation



Brandi Wulkan

Program Director
Farm Camp -
Foundation



Keri Sidle

Education Specialist
MDA



Emily Ponwith

Resource Specialist
Foundation



Ann Vote

Career Video Producer
Foundation



Sarah Kuschel

Resource Specialist
Foundation



Ann Marie Ward

Executive Director
Foundation



mn DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



Program Goal



Empower and inspire all **K-12 educators**
to use **agriculture** as a context
for learning!



Programs and Resources

K-12 Educator Opportunities	Educator Workshops and Webinars	Outstanding Teacher Award	Agricultural Literacy and First Year Teacher Grants	Teacher Tour
Curricular Resources	Curriculum Matrix	Food for Thought	Video Library	
Student Engagement	AgMag Print and Online	Farm Camp Minnesota	Virtual Field Trips	Farm and Food Book Week



Educator Opportunities



**Teacher
Tours**



**Educator
Workshops**



**Educator
Advisory
Team**



2024 Summer Teacher Tours

- **The Hands that Feed Us**
 - Tour Stops: Compeer Financial
 - Format changed due to weather
- **Orchard to Market**
 - Tour Stops: Pine Tree Apple Orchard, Bix Produce Co., and Bailey Nurseries
- **Farm, Fiber and Fabrication**
 - Tour Stops: Wells Technology, Bemidji Woolen Mills, Gustafson Farms, Table for 7
- **Out of 85 total participants, 28% were from the metro and 72% were from greater Minnesota.**



Summer Teacher Tour Celebrations

"We pick a different agriculture topic each year to share with the students at the different grade levels. This year is 'apples.' I have so many ideas now of what to teach the kids."

"It was really neat how the lessons opened up group discussion and we were quickly looking at social studies standards while talking about food. 2) Our group was a mix of educators, food service and home school and we found that the same lesson provided value to each of our roles in education."

"I have new perspectives and a better understanding of the full circle of agriculture. I loved learning about new ways to be able to teach lessons in the classroom!"



Curriculum Connections



Educator Workshops

- Inservice workshops = **427** teachers
 - Professional conferences
 - School district in-service days
 - Virtual and in-person
 - After School PD with MAITC
- Pre-service workshops = **295** students
 - College education classes



AFTER SCHOOL
Professional Development

MINNESOTA
Agriculture in the Classroom

LEARN MORE ABOUT SEEDS

Tuesday, January 13, 2025
LIVE 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Zachary Paige
Owner of North Circle Seeds



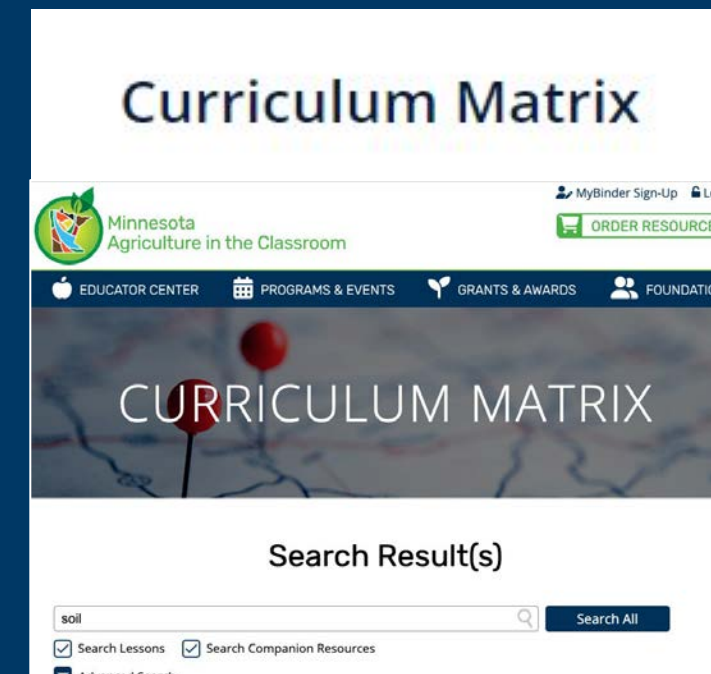
Educator Advisory Team

- Launched in August 2022 with 6 educators
- 6 additional educators added since launch
- Advisory Team members:
 - Attend quarterly meetings
 - Develop and deliver hands-on professional development sessions to peers using MAITC resources
 - Provide feedback and insight on MAITC resources and program elements
- MAITC 101 professional development course created



Curricular Resources

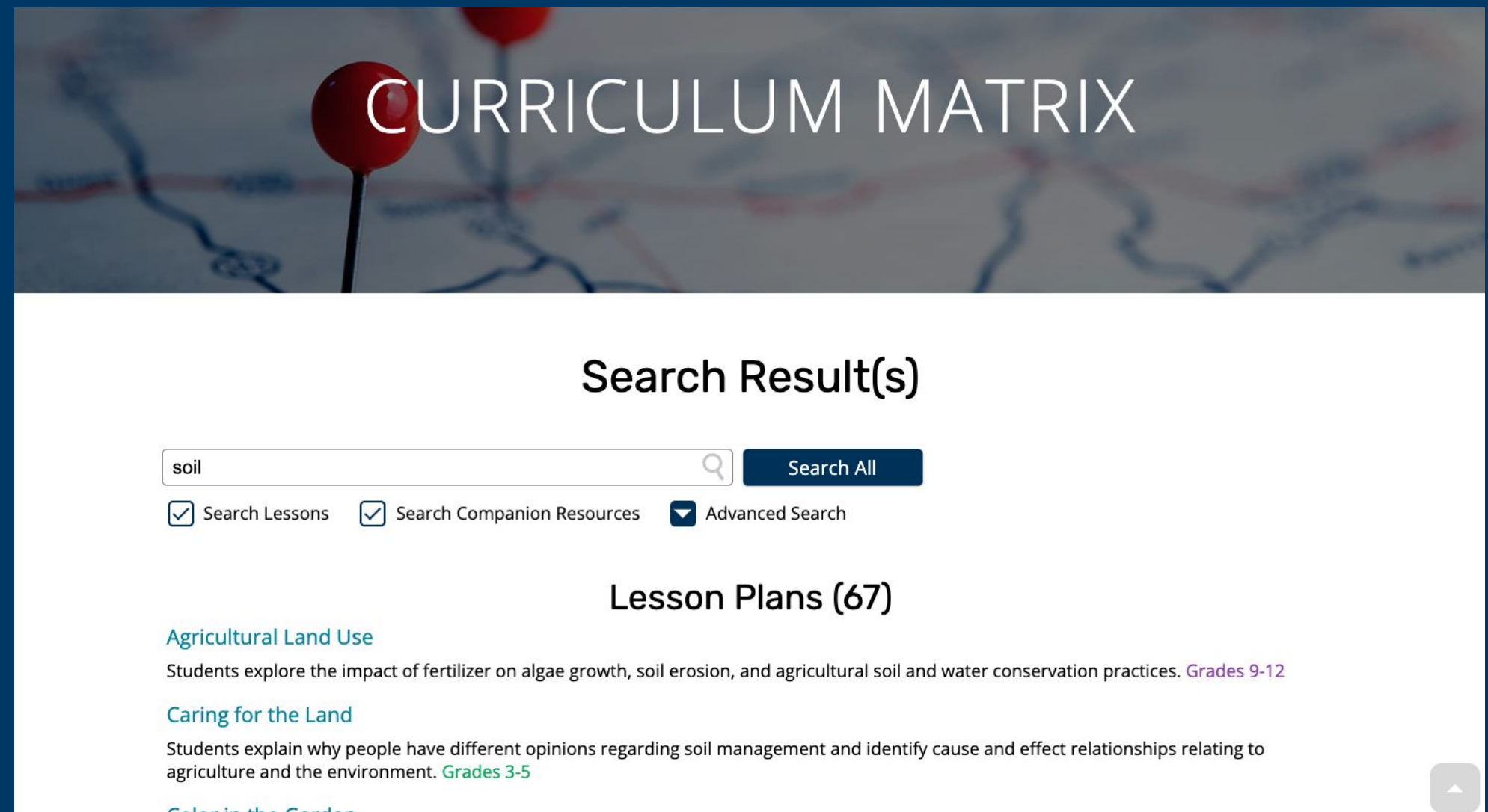
- **Curriculum Matrix**
 - Searchable database of agriculture-themed, standards-based lessons and activities.
- **Food for Thought**
 - Lessons and maps developed with MAGE. Address Minnesota's Geography Standards.
- **Monthly Focus Areas**
 - Seasonal agricultural topics are used to highlight curricular resources, AgMag issues, virtual field trips and teacher professional development.



Curricular Resources

Curriculum Matrix

Searchable database of over 400 standards-based, agriculture themed lessons and activities



The screenshot displays the Curriculum Matrix website interface. At the top, a banner image shows a map with red pushpins, with the text "CURRICULUM MATRIX" overlaid. Below the banner, the heading "Search Result(s)" is centered. A search bar contains the text "soil" and a magnifying glass icon, followed by a "Search All" button. Below the search bar, there are three checkboxes: "Search Lessons" (checked), "Search Companion Resources" (checked), and "Advanced Search" (unchecked). The results section is titled "Lesson Plans (67)". The first result is "Agricultural Land Use" in blue text, followed by a description: "Students explore the impact of fertilizer on algae growth, soil erosion, and agricultural soil and water conservation practices. Grades 9-12". The second result is "Caring for the Land" in blue text, followed by a description: "Students explain why people have different opinions regarding soil management and identify cause and effect relationships relating to agriculture and the environment. Grades 3-5". The third result is "Color in the Garden" in blue text. A small upward arrow icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the results area.



Student Engagement



AgMag



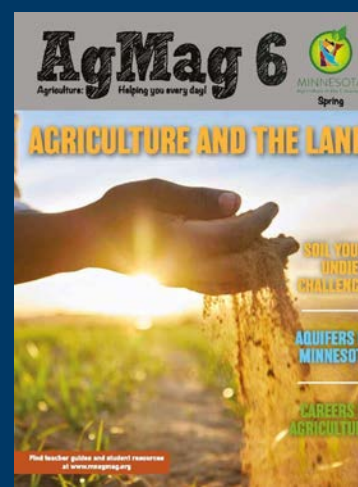
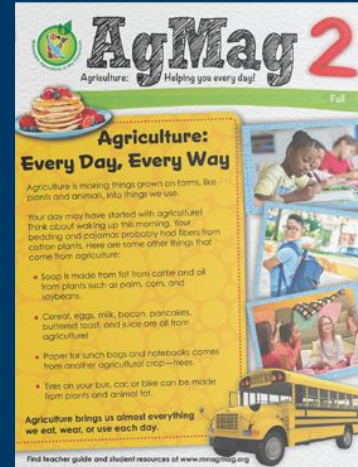
**Virtual
Field Trips**



**Farm
Camp**



AgMag



DIG INTO SOIL WITH THE SOIL YOUR UNDIES CHALLENGE!



I need to improve my soil health!

WOW! My soil is looking pretty healthy!

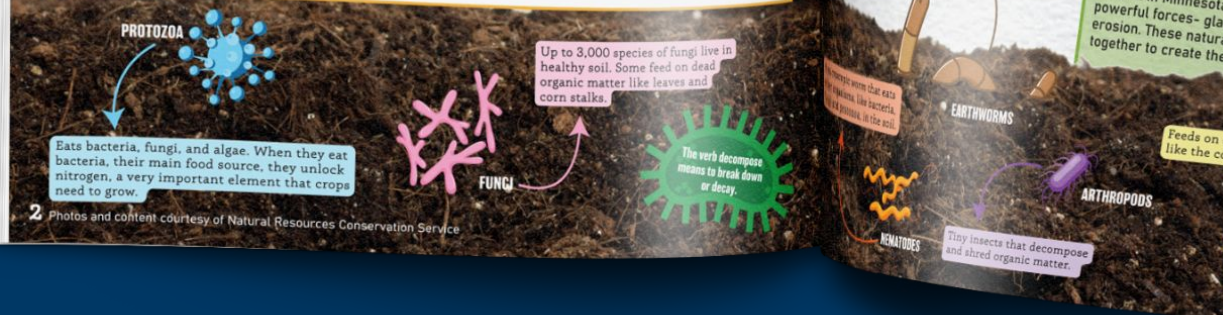
TAKE THE SOIL YOUR UNDIES CHALLENGE

The challenge is on! To complete the Soil Your Undies Challenge you will need: One pair of white, unwashed 100% cotton underwear, a shovel, and a flag to mark where you planted the undies.

"Plant" a pair of new 100% cotton underwear by burying them horizontally about 3 inches deep. Don't forget to mark the spot you planted! Wait at least 60 days before you dig them back up to see what's left.

HOW CAN THE SOIL YOUR UNDIES CHALLENGE BE USED TO TELL HOW HEALTHY YOUR SOIL IS?

Your undies won't break down in just any soil. Healthy soil contains billions of microbes that consume the cotton in undies. In fact, one teaspoon of healthy soil contains more microbes than there are people on the planet. The term soil microbes is short for "microscopic organisms". Most soil microbes can be classified into four broad categories: bacteria, protozoa, fungi and viruses. In addition to chowing down on organic matter like cotton, these helpful microbes also help soil resist erosion, hold nutrients, and store water. Soil microbes are a farmer's best friend!



Minnesota's agricultural industry depends on natural resources like fresh air, rich soil, water and a good climate. That's why our farmers and others must act as good stewards of the land, protecting these important resources.



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

Have your classroom take a before and after picture of the undies
you plant and share it with us!

Send your picture to mnagmag.org/challenge

Soil is the foundation of nearly every living thing on our planet! Soil is more than just dirt - it is an ecosystem of life. Just like our human organs perform functions that keep us healthy, healthy soil performs important functions that promote a healthy environment! Healthy soil is able to filter water, serve as habitat for billions of living organisms, support growing plants that give us food, and much more!

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UNDERSTANDING MINNESOTA, THE LAND OF LAKES

How have glacial activity, weathering and erosion shaped the surface of Minnesota?

GLACIAL ACTIVITY

Thousands of years ago, Minnesota was covered in glaciers. As the climate changed and these huge sheets of ice began to melt and move, they carved out giant holes in the land, leaving behind massive ice chunks. As these ice chunks continued melting, they formed lakes and aquifers. It's hard to imagine a Minnesota without lakes, but our state once looked very different from what it does today. In fact, Minnesota's landscape has always been changing, and it always will be.

WEATHERING



EROSION



Once the soil is moved away - it's gone! As the Minnesota River flows through the state, it is moving more than just water. Every year, the river carves further into its bank, carrying dirt and sediment with it. This process is just one example of erosion, which is when earth materials are worn away and transported by natural forces such as wind or water. Erosion can be powerful and quick. The Minnesota River is estimated to consume an average of 80 acres of land, yearly. That's a lot of soil being moved by water! Next time you see a river or stream, pay attention to how clear or muddy the water is—erosion is occurring right before your eyes!

very long time – hundreds or even thousands of years!
have today.

MINNESOTA SOIL REGIONS

MIDWEST SOIL REGIONS

By studying soils, scientists learn how to use and protect each soil type. Knowing about soil helps farmers and gardeners manage the soil for good yields. It helps land use planners and civil engineers decide how to use the land wisely. It helps builders know the best spots for roads, sewage treatment plants and sturdy buildings that last for years. We all benefit when human uses are carefully matched with soil types.



The old glacier lake
bed left rich, deep
soil on the flat land.
Most of the land is
farmed. Our famous
Red River Valley is
here. Winds
blowing across the
prairie can carry
soil away.



The glaciers created ridges of rocky outcroppings and hundreds of lakes and swamps. Glaciers scraped off the topsoil, so farming is limited. Evergreens grow well.




The Driftless Area is the only region of Minnesota not covered by the glaciers of the last ice age. It is a land of rolling hills, as well as rugged bluffs and cliffs.



NIC JELINSKI Soil Scientist

Nic Jelinski is a soil scientist at the Department of Soil, Water and Climate at the University of Minnesota. He studies how soils form, why they look the way do and how soils respond to changes in the environment and human interactions.



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[AgMag](#)
[Ag Terms Glossary](#)
[Mid Agriculture Products](#)
[Careers](#)
[Educators](#)
[Contact Us](#)

[6 Steps](#)




AgMag 6 Spring 2025

Home » AgMag » AgMag 6 Spring 2025

Welcome to the AgMag made just for 6th Grade learners! Page through the AgMag 6 below and then play fun activities using the Your AgMag Content sections!

Course Content

☐ Soil Your Undies Challenge

☐ Understanding Minnesota, The Land of Lakes

☐ Agriculture and Water

☐ Careers in Agriculture

☒ AgMag 6 Spring 2025

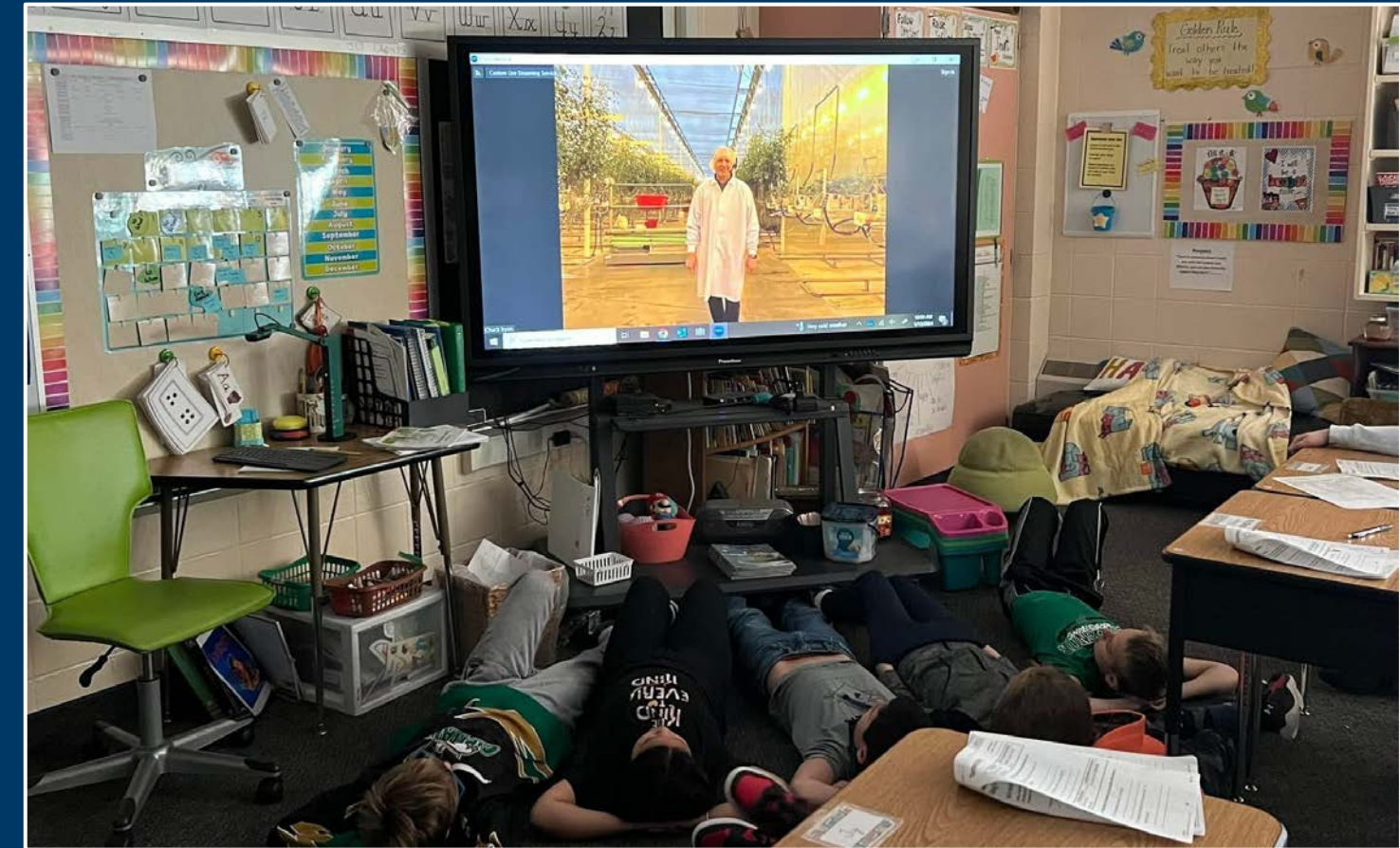






Virtual Field Trips

- Targeted K-5th grade students and 30-minutes in length
- **5** Virtual Field Trips
- **10,352** Total Students Impacted (duplicated)
- **478** Classrooms Impacted



Virtual FIELD TRIP MINNESOTA Agriculture in the Classroom

Friday, September 13, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Farm at the Arb
Chaska, MN

LIVE



2024-2025

Virtual FIELD TRIP MINNESOTA Agriculture in the Classroom

Friday, Oct. 4 at 9:30 a.m.

The Little Green Wagon
Mankato, MN

LIVE



2024-2025

Virtual FIELD TRIP MINNESOTA Agriculture in the Classroom

Friday, Jan. 24 at 1:00pm

TENACITY AG
Tenacity Ag
Hancock, MN

LIVE



2024-2025

Virtual FIELD TRIP MINNESOTA Agriculture in the Classroom

Tuesday, Nov. 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Kvistad Turkeys
Cottonwood, MN

LIVE



2024-2025

Virtual FIELD TRIP MINNESOTA Agriculture in the Classroom

Thursday, Dec. 5th at 10:30am

Midtown Global Market
Minneapolis, MN

LIVE



2024-2025

What is Farm Camp?

3 Part Immersive Agricultural Experience

“Our AgHost taught us more than we could have learned from any textbook.”

- Kelliher Science Teacher

FARM CAMP —MI



Brought to you by the Classroom to Farm learning experience

Farm Camp experiences

- Reinforce standards
- Engage students in their learning
- Create real-world connections to agriculture

“Our AgHost taught us more than we could have learned from any textbook.”

Amy

“I was surprised

What are the 3 Parts of Farm Camp?

IN CLASSROOM LEARNING



Curriculum matrix lessons are matched to experiences to be learned at the farm or agribusiness.

Each experience is tailored to connect to standards-based classroom curriculum and engage students.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE



There are 3 unique options to choose from:

1. Single-Stop Farm Camp
2. Farm Camp Field Day
3. Virtual Farm Camp

Transportation grants available.

CAREER EXPLORATION



Student experiences are connected to careers through:

- In-classroom lesson
- Outside speaker
- Interactive career exploration activity
- Lessons
- Videos
- Resources



Connect with us today to support or participate in a Farm

Farm Camp Minnesota

- Increasing Ag Literacy for 5th-12th Grade Students.
- FarmCampMinnesota.org
- A great year with fantastic feedback

Current Year 2023-2024 Impact
876 Students
46 Classrooms
35 Educators
38 AgHosts

Anticipated 2024-2025 Impact
1,250 Students



"Thank you for a WONDERFUL day!! Your presenters were terrific, kept the kids engaged and excited about the future! Thanks for all of your hard work on this fantastic event!" -

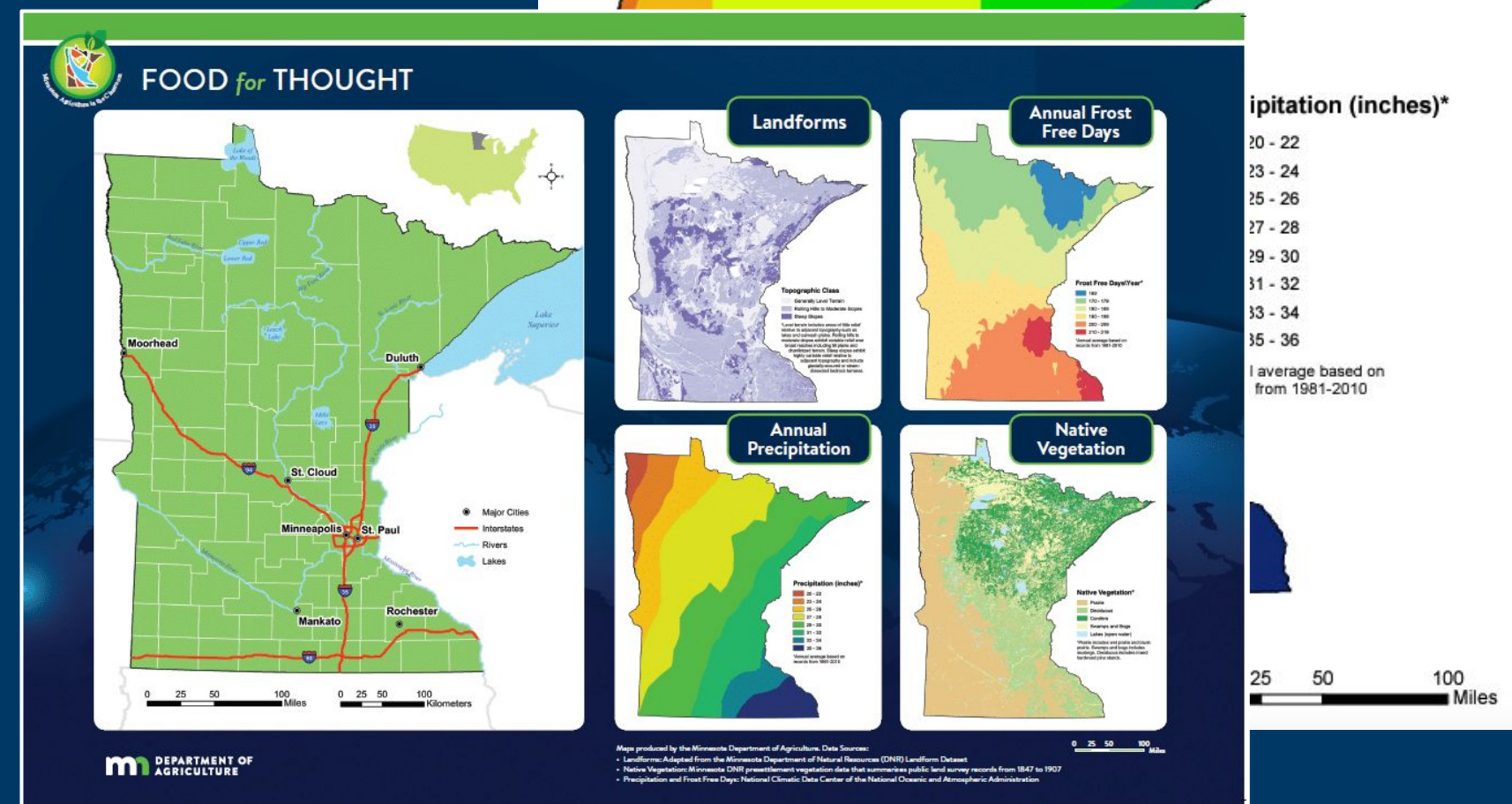
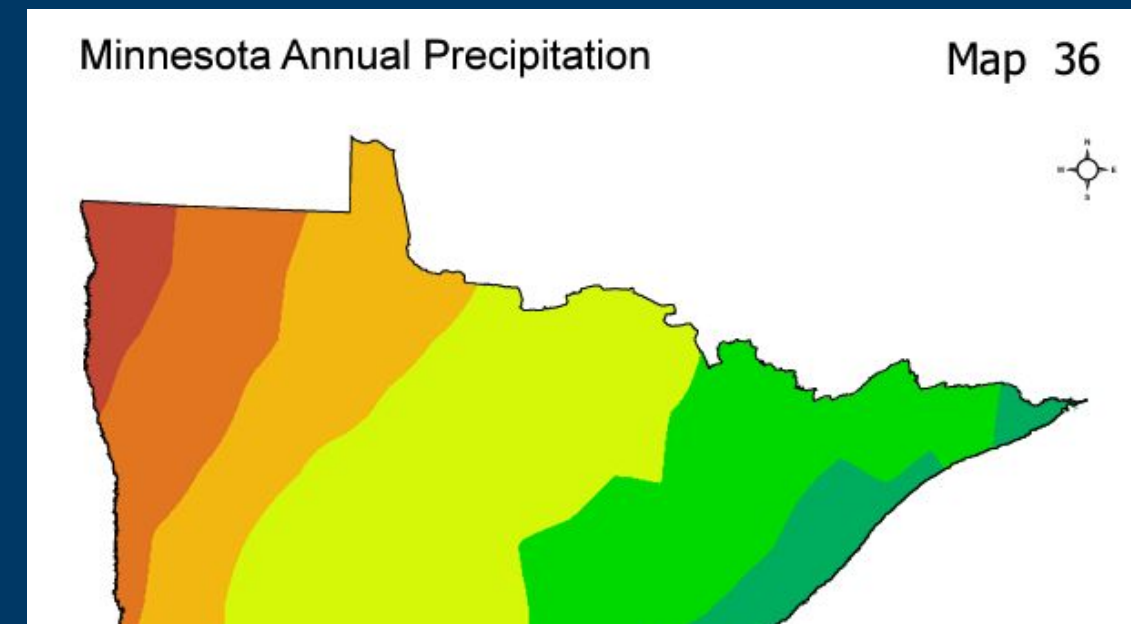
Educators,
Westbrook-Walnut Grove
Schools



Food for Thought

Designed to engage K-12 students and inspire interest in the geography of Minnesota agriculture

- 18 K-12 lessons
- 42 static maps
- Interactive online map layers





2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

Over **149,534+** Students and **88%**
of Minnesota's Public School
Districts Impacted.

MAITC Resources are being used
in all 87 counties!



Experiences with Impact!



Our Impact Amplified

Outreach Organizations Who Utilize MAITC Resources

- Farmamerica
- Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota
- Farmers Union Summer Camps
- Twin Cities Road Crew
- NRCS
- FFA Chapters
- 4-H Youth Development
- MN Farm Bureau
- MN Cattlemen
- MN Beef Ambassadors
- Public Libraries
- Career Fairs

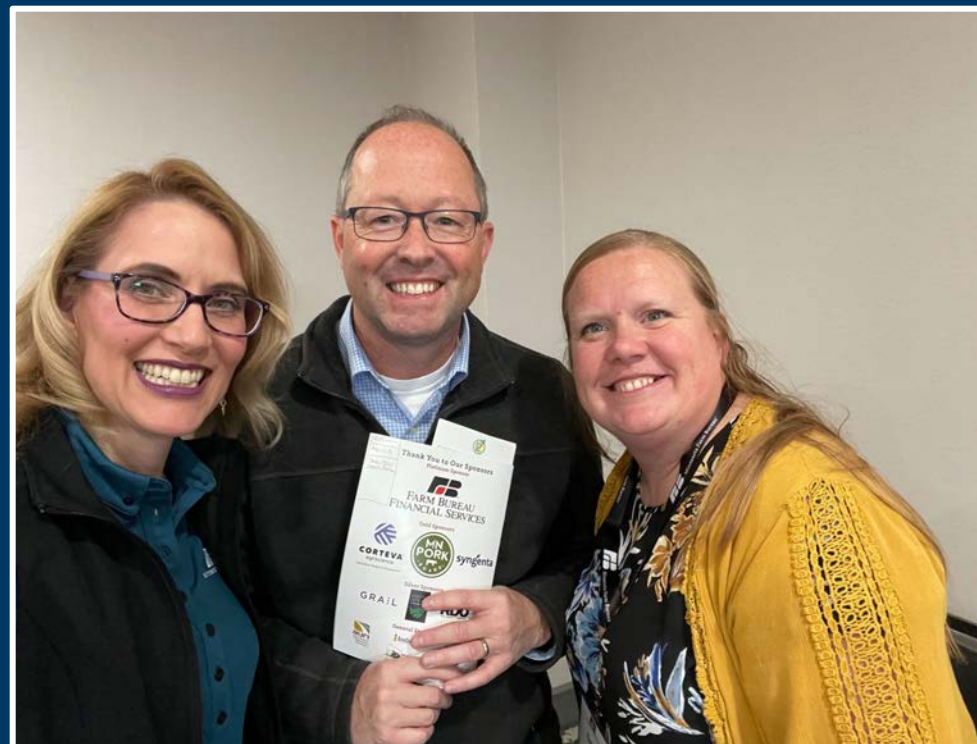


Coming to
Minnesota
in
June of
2025...

The National
Agriculture
in the Classroom
Conference!



THANK YOU!





Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Foundation



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Foundation
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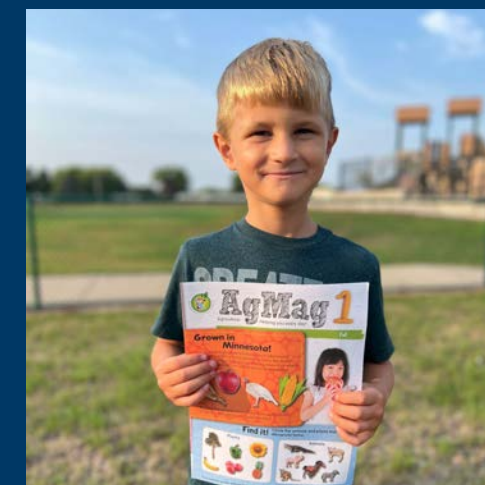
maitcfoundation.org
mn.agclassroom.org
mnagmag.org
farmcampminnesota.org



annmarie@maitc.org



218-556-1436



FOCUS AREAS 2024-2025

- Sustainability & Growth - Programming & Impact
- Career Videos & Lesson Expansion
- Educator Driven Advisory Team Expansion
- Monthly Focus Areas & Prof Development
- Enhance reporting: Salesforce - capture detailed statistics
- Increase partnerships with Investors
- Charities Review Council - Goal FY25





Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Student & Educator Audiences

We work towards achieving our mission through connecting with Minnesota

- K-12 Students
- Educators
 - PreService
 - InService



Resource Specialists

Emily Ponwith *Southern MN*

Jessica Blosberg *Metro*

Sarah Kuschel *Northern MN*

- Build relationships with educators in region to promote agriculture literacy in K-12 classrooms.
- Support educators in implementation of MAITC resources in their classrooms.



Student Experiences: K-12th Graders

- AgMags
- Virtual Field Trips
- Journey 2050
- Farm Camp



MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM


**virtual
FIELD TRIPS**


ST. JAMES, MN

**JANUARY 20TH
10:00 A.M.**





AgMag 5  Spring

Agriculture: Helping you every day!

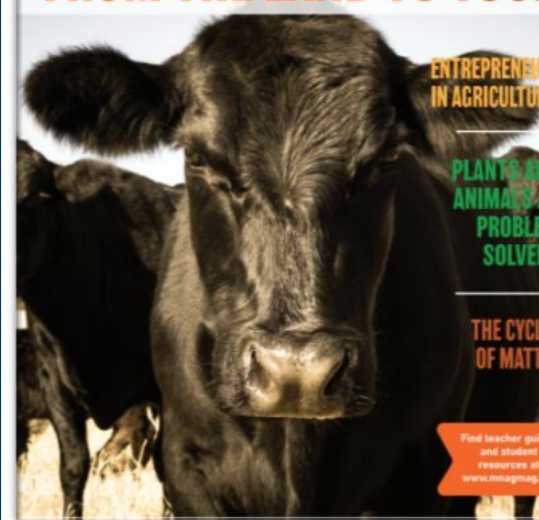
FROM THE LAND TO YOU!

ENTREPRENEURS IN AGRICULTURE!

PLANTS AND ANIMALS AS PROBLEM SOLVERS

THE CYCLES OF MATTER

Find teacher guides and student resources at www.agmag.org



Corn or Health?

We need food to learn about for us. They are humans. Even t

Corn has lots of vitamins B and C, and magnesium. Vitamin B helps you have energy and good health. Vitamin C helps you grow and maintain good bones and teeth. Magnesium helps your heart keep a steady beat.

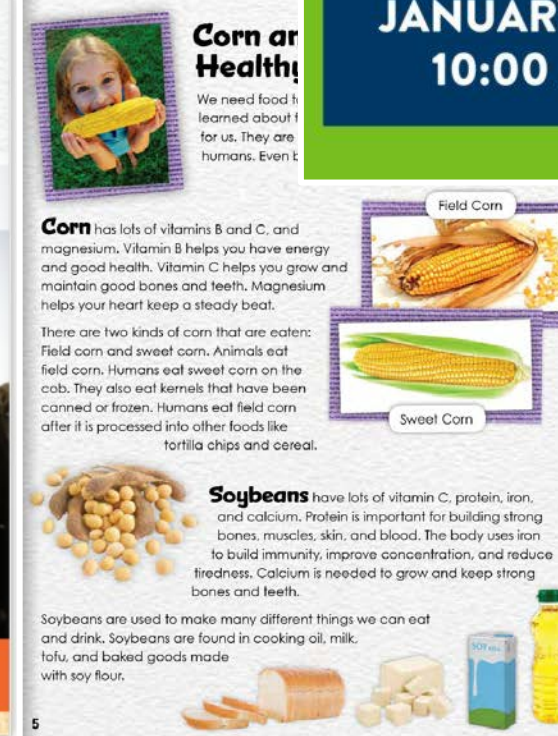
There are two kinds of corn that are eaten: Field corn and sweet corn. Animals eat field corn. Humans eat sweet corn on the cob. They also eat kernels that have been canned or frozen. Humans eat field corn after it is processed into other foods like tortilla chips and cereal.

Soybeans have lots of vitamin C, protein, iron, and calcium. Protein is important for building strong bones, muscles, skin, and blood. The body uses iron to build immunity, improve concentration, and reduce tiredness. Calcium is needed to grow and keep strong bones and teeth.

Soybeans are used to make many different things we can eat and drink. Soybeans are found in cooking oil, milk, tofu, and baked goods made with soy flour.

Field Corn

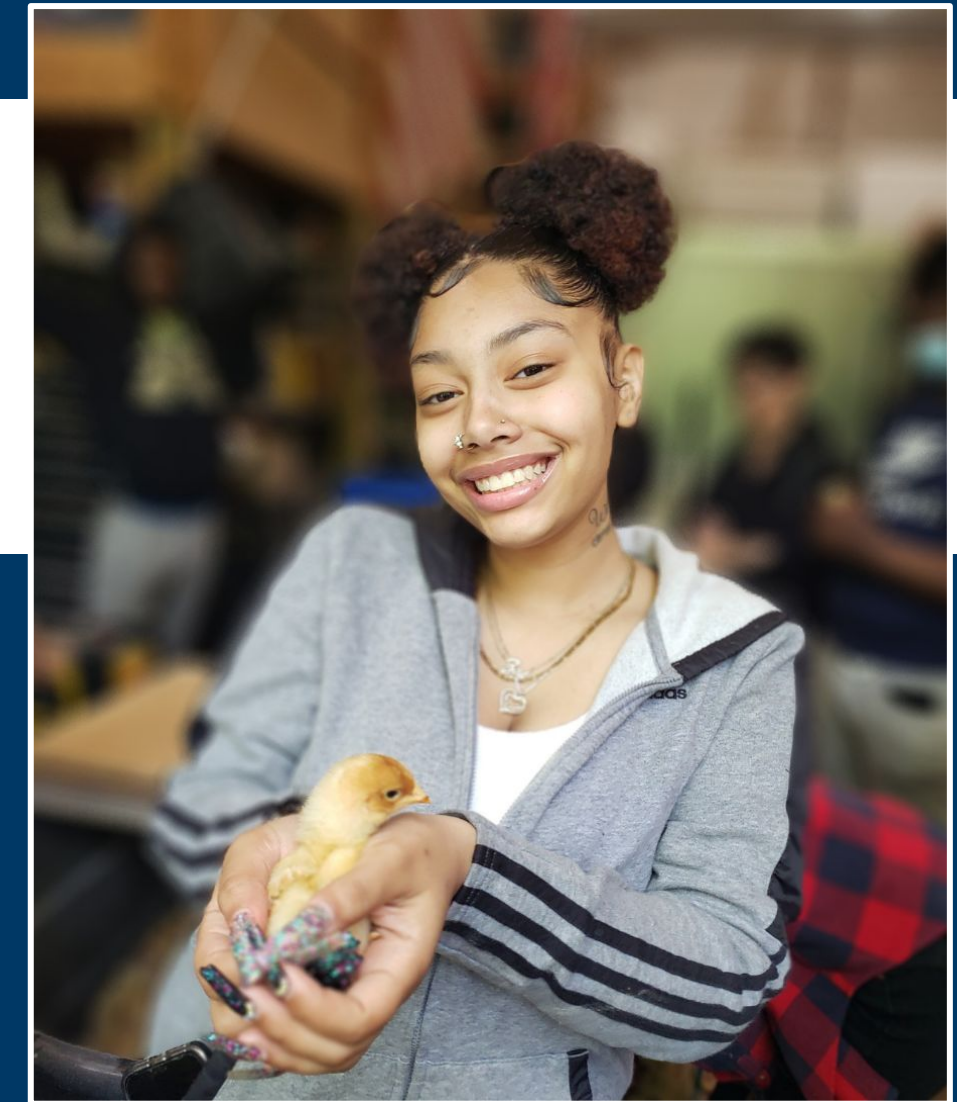
Sweet Corn





FARM CAMP —MINNESOTA—

Increasing Ag Literacy for
5th-12th Grade Students
www.farmcampminnesota.org



Career Focus

- AgHost Connections to Careers
- Highlight Careers that Support the Farm
- Career Lessons Spark Curiosity



Docuseries Partnership Agriculture Career Videos



Minnesota Agriculture in the
Classroom, Inc. Foundation



Farm Camp Successes

Student Engagement



AgHost Preparation



Educator Investment

