



Michigan

Agriculture in the Classroom

www.miagclassroom.org

Agricultural Literacy Outreach

Agricultural Literacy is...

Possessing knowledge and understanding of our food and fiber system.

- *Agriculture and the Environment*
- *Plants and Animals for Food, Fiber & Energy*
- *Food, Health and Lifestyle*
- *Science, Technology, Engineering & Math*
- *Culture, Society, Economy & Geography*

Michigan Ag in the Classroom

- Teacher Resources & Professional Development
- FARM Science Labs
- FARM Science Van
- FARM Crate – Lessons in a box
- Curriculum Matrix
- Accurate Agriculture Books



Michigan Farm Bureau Volunteers

- March is Reading Month
- Project RED/Ag Awareness Days
- Ag in the Classroom Outreach
- Field Trips
- Fairs and Festivals
- Library Programs
- Career Focused Events



By the Numbers - 2023

Michigan Ag in the Classroom (MIAITC)

- 17,400 Students participated with the Lab/Van
- 3,200 classrooms with FARM Crates
- 4,500 teacher touch points with programs

Volunteer Led

- 52,800 Student contacts with volunteer programs
- 2,400 teacher touch points with programs

Book of the Year

American Farm Bureau Foundation

AG MAG MINI

TREE NUTS

PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT

Almond Producer – Jenny Holtermann – Central Valley, California

Why are pollinators necessary for farming tree nuts?
 "Bees are needed to carry pollen from one almond bloom to the other. Without bees, pollen wouldn't be able to get inside the flower and make an almond. We have lots of bees on our farm during almond bloom, every February, and take special care to ensure our bees are happy and healthy."

How are almonds harvested?
 Almonds are harvested every year from August through October. We use a machine that cuts the trunk of the trees into rubber arms. Once the almonds are shaken to the ground, a machine with blowers and brooms separates the almonds into a pretty row down the center. A week later, once the almonds are out of the almonds, a harvester comes and picks up the rows.

What happens to your almonds go after you harvest them?
 "They are then loaded onto a truck and taken to a huller and sheller to have the hulls and shells removed. The hulls are sold to dairies and feedlots for the cows to eat as a nutrition addition to their diet. The shells are used for landscape and livestock bedding. The almonds are shipped all over the world. You can buy our almonds direct from our farm at www.almondgirl.com."

Hazelnut Grower & Retailer – Angela Capps and Richard Ernst, Ernst Farms – St. Paul, Oregon

How long does it take for hazel trees to grow a crop?
 "Hazelnut trees will start producing within 3-4 years. It will see yields of 2-3 years. Yields begin to double every 5-6 years."

Why do you grow hazelnuts?
 "My dad planted the trees because there is a high demand for hazelnuts. It's a low maintenance crop, but it is physically demanding to work. I grew up because he's 79 years old. Hazelnuts grow very well in Oregon, Central Valley, and the orchards have been there for many years."

MY GRANDPA, MY TREE, AND ME
 Roxanne Troup
 Kendra Binney

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE
 AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION
 AGRICULTURE

For More Information

- miagclassroom.org – Michigan Ag in the Classroom
- agfoundation.org – American Farm Bureau Foundation
- agclassroom.org – National Ag in the Classroom