



2017-2018 Essay Contest for 4th and 5th Grade Students Presented by Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom

Inventions that have made agriculture great

This year's essay contest topic is ***"Inventions that have made agriculture great"*** Our 2018 Book of the Year is ***"John Deere, That's Who"*** by Tracy Nelson Maurer. The book and essay topic will allow us to educate students about how John Deere improved and invented a plow. All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities, and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org.

Contest Rules:

- The essay contest is open to 4th and 5th grade students in public schools, private schools, and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink **or** be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be between 100 to 300 words in length (using common MS Word "word count" methods for counting words, numbers and abbreviations).
- Essays will be judged on content (25 points), grammar and spelling (15 pts) and neatness (10 pts).
- Essays must include: student's name, grade level, parent's name, teacher's name, school name and address, school phone number, teacher's email address and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- **Entry deadline - Postmarked by April 2, 2018** and sent to:

County Farm Bureau Essay Contest Coordinator:

Attn: Nicole Nohl
Brown County Dairy Promotions/UWEX
210 Museum Place
Green Bay, WI 54303
Bcdp.scheduling@gmail.com

or

Wisconsin Farm Bureau-Ag in the Classroom

P.O. Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705

Phone: 608-828-5644
Email: aic@wfbf.com

Contest Prizes:

- **Brown County Dairy Promo** is giving gift cards prizes to first \$75, second \$50, & third \$25 place County essays in April.
- Nine district winners will be chosen. District and state winners will be announced in May 2018.
- Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May 2018 for their class, homeroom or home school group.
- A state winner will be chosen and will receive a special award.

The Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest is sponsored by We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation – Ag in the Classroom.



Return this form with essay **or** provide the same information on the back of each entry:

Student's name _____

Grade level _____

Parent's name (mom and dad) _____

Teacher's name _____

School name _____

School address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Teacher's email _____

School phone number _____

County _____

Using the Book of Year 2018 as a possible resource, the topic will allow students to write about inventions that have made agriculture advance in technology, efficiency and productivity. This will tie into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), connect with careers in agriculture, look at the stories behind some of the inventions and their inventors, and offer opportunities to learn about technology and equipment related to agriculture.

Because of the broad nature of this topic, students might consider, but are not limited to, some of these sub-topics to write about:

- Pick an invention and write how the idea was conceived and then developed.
- Pick an inventor and write about the invention(s) that person developed.
- Compare agricultural practices before and after an invention was developed for that industry, type of production or processing.
- Compare types of farm equipment and what are the advances that engineers and inventors made to improve the machine and its efficiency.
- What types of inventions have been made in food processing that have helped keep our food supply safe, extend shelf life, and ways it can be transported?
- What types of inventions or research has changed our agronomic and/or horticultural crops?

On the Web

Wisconsin Technology Council- Technology timeline
<http://wisconsintechcouncil.com/publications/timeline/>

Growing a Nation- The History of American Agriculture
https://www.agclassroom.org/gan/timeline/farm_tech.htm

Ag Today! Issue 5: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Can Sustainably Feed the World!
<https://www.agclassroom.org/student/agtoday.cfm>

Learn the term sustainability and what that means to farmers who need to produce 60% more food with the same amount of land in order to feed a growing world population. Students will learn what byproducts are and how they are used, how food packaging has decreased waste, and how farmers use technology such as various tools, robots, and hand-held devices to improve their efficiency.

Wisconsin Historical Society-
Agricultural inventions search <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records?terms=agricultural+inventions>

Books

- *John Deere, That's Who* by Tracy Nelson Maurer- Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year 2018
- *Agricultural Inventions* by Helen Mason
- *The Boy Who Changed the World* by Andy Andrews

Questions? Contact Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom at 608-828-5644, email aitc@wfbf.com or look for us on the web at wisagclassroom.org.

