



## What can you do?

1. Get involved on your county AITC Committee – all it takes is a small group with some good ideas and a willingness to make a difference. If your county doesn't have an established committee, start one!
2. See to it that your county establishes a budget to work with – you don't need to spend a fortune. There are many things you can do that won't cost a lot. A budget of \$250 or less can go a long way. Some things to budget for:
  - Materials donated to schools
  - Scholarships for teachers to attend Teachers in-services, training or other Ag in the Classroom related conferences.
  - Postage, mailings and office-related expenses
  - Amount to reimburse volunteers visiting classrooms or hosting farm tours
3. Promote this program in your local schools – find out who makes the decisions regarding curriculum and make an appointment to visit with that individual – it may be the principal or the curriculum director. Take samples of all the materials that the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program has to offer.
4. Start small – evaluate how many schools you can work with based on available time and funds. Set some goals for your program, but keep them realistic and attainable.
5. Assemble a list of farmers from your county who would host a farm tour for local classrooms or go into classrooms to give presentations. If possible, categorize the list by the type of farm. **DISTRIBUTE THIS LIST TO EVERY SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY.** This is a great way to involve Farm Bureau members in a worthwhile project.
6. Distributing free resource materials from Farm Bureau and/or other ag groups is a great way to get your foot in the door. We also have quality items such as books, videos & brochures that are available for purchase. Consider donating books, videos, etc. to schools and/or libraries. A great resource is the website: [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org)
7. Adopt a classroom – send the class letters occasionally to explain what is happening on your farm during the year. Schedule a day to go into the classroom and make a presentation – the students will love it, especially if you bring some items from the farm for “show & tell.”
8. Encourage teachers to attend the Teacher Training opportunities.
9. Look for opportunities to apply for funding to assist in your local efforts. Some possible sources include:
  - Ag in the Classroom matching grant program (forms due April 1!)
  - Wal-Mart Foundation, local civic groups & foundations
  - Agriculture-related businesses in your community