**Ag in the Classroom News Release**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Farm Bureau** ®

**Contact: (**Delete this text and put your name here)

(Place County Name Here) County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

(Place phone number here)

**(Place date here) FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Agriculture Essay Contest Deadline is April 1**

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are being encouraged to participate in the Wisconsin Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement, “Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.”

Essay submissions must be 100 to 300 words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. All contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at [wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org/) or by contacting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Participating students and schools need to submit essays by April 1.

The essay contest coincides with the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom 2017 Book of the Year, *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen. The book and essay topic will allow students to learn about cranberries and the important role they play in agriculture.

One county winner will be selected and will receive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and will be forwarded on to the district level. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class. A state winner will be selected from nine district winners in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation’s Promotion and Education Committee. As a special treat for the state winner this year, the author of the book will visit his or her classroom to do a special presentation.

Last year, more than 3,000 students participated in the contest. The contest is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in kindergarten through high school to understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

For essay contest information and rules, and more about Ag in the Classroom, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.