Agricultural Literacy Books and Lessons

Christmas Farm — by Mary Lyn Ray

The Life of Douglas-fir (Grades K-5)
Students will explore the life cycle of a Douglas-fir Christmas tree through this fun craft learning the various stages of growth. **Kit available from oregonaitc.org!**

Discover Christmas Trees (K-5)*
Students explore the history of the Christmas tree, explain the life cycle of a conifer, identify types of trees and how they adapt, discover what it's like to work on a Christmas tree farm, and examine the ecology of conifer trees.

Charlie Needs a Cloak — by Depaola and Tomie dePaola

Wool Spinning (Grades K-5)
Students will get hooked on wool spinning as they learn about wool and where it comes from. Using carded wool and spinning hooks, students will create friendship bracelets to wear home! **Kit available from oregonaitc.org!**

A Tail of Two Sheep (Grades K-2)*
Students compare and contrast hair sheep and wool sheep, discover the reasons why farmers raise sheep, and explore ways farmers meet the needs of the sheep they raise.

Baa, Ram, Ewe...Sheep Tales (Grades K-2)*
Students explore the process of making wool into cloth.

From Wool to Wheel (Grades 3-5)*
Students investigate the importance of wool in colonial America and compare and contrast the differences between processing wool then and now. Students spin, weave, and dye wool and watch videos illustrating how wool was processed in colonial times and how it is processed today.

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Tables — by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Living Necklace (Grades K-5)
Students make a "living necklace" they can wear home or display in various places around the classroom. It is ideal for kicking off a plant unit or introducing the stages of plant growth and development.
Kit available from oregonaitc.org!

Garden in a Glove (Grades K-5)
This simple lesson gives students an opportunity to investigate and observe how a seed sprouts.
Kit available from oregonaitc.org!

Test Tube Hydroponics (Grades 3-5)*
Students investigate the importance of nutrients for plant growth and discover how plants grow without soil by growing and observing plants in a test tube hydroponic system.

Desktop Greenhouse (Grades 3-5)*
Students investigate the importance of light to plants by creating a desktop greenhouse investigation and exploring the process of photosynthesis. **Kit available from oregonaitc.org!**

Lessons notated with an asterisks can be found on the Currciulum Matrix, all other lessons can be found on our Oregon lessons page.

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How to Build a Hug

by Amy Guglielmo and Jacqueline Tourville

Cows, Corrals and Innovation (Grades K-5)
Explore the natural behaviors of cattle and engineer a handling system with guidance from Temple Grandin, renowned animal scientist. Students will be challenged to build a corral system using simple materials to move cattle.

Build it Better (Grades 3-5)*
Students investigate animal handling preferences, design a cattle corral system that is durable, efficient, and effective, and discover the skills needed to be an agricultural engineer.

Nachos's Nachos: The Story Behind the World's Famous Snacks

by Sandra Nickel

Where Does it Come From? (Grades 3-5)*
Students explore the connection between geography, climate, and the type of agriculture in an area by reading background information and census data about the agricultural commodities beef, potatoes, apples, wheat, corn, and milk.

Cheesemaking: From Liquid to Solid (Grades 3-5)*
Students make fresh mozzarella cheese and discover the science (changing a liquid to a solid), art, and craft involved in the development of specialty cheese.

My Farm Web (Grades K-5)
Students use the visual representation of a web to explore the role of agriculture in their daily lives and understand how most of the necessities of life can be traced back to the farm. **Kit available from oregonaitc.org!**

Plant the Tiny Seed

by Christie Matheson

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Grow a Bean in a Bag (Grades K-5)
Students grow a bean in a bag with water beads representing the basic elements plants need to grow and thrive. **Kit available from oregonaitc.org!**

My Little Seed House and Seed Book (Grades K-2)*
Students observe the growth and development of seeds and explore what conditions are necessary for seeds to germinate.

Desktop Greenhouse (Grades 3-5)*
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The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind — by William Kamkwamba

Columbian Exchange (Grades 3-5)
Students explore New World and Old World food origins to understand how the Columbian Exchange altered people's lives worldwide. **Kit available from oregonaitc.org!**

Farming for Energy (Grades 3-5)*
Students identify renewable and nonrenewable energy sources and investigate how farms can produce renewable energy.

Cultures, Food and Communities Around the World (Grades 3-5)*
Students will explore different cultures around the world, compare worldwide communities with local communities, and explain the interrelationship between the environment and community development.

The Kid Who Changed the World — by Andy Andrews

Barley and Beasts: An Introduction to Inherited Traits (Grades 3-5)
Students will discover traits in offspring come from parents and offspring from the same parents have different combinations of traits. This will be done through the analysis of images of two parent plants with completely different traits and 18 offspring plants resulting from the crossing of the two parents.

Columbian Exchange (Grades 3-5)
Students explore New World and Old World food origins to understand how the Columbian Exchange altered people's lives worldwide. **Kit available from oregonaitc.org!**

Pests and Pesticides in Agriculture (Grades 3-5)*
In this lesson students learn the definition of a pest and identify categories of pests including vertebrates, invertebrates, weeds, or disease. Through a classroom activity, students learn how pests affect the growth of crops and how integrated pest management (IPM) is used to control pests.

These Bees Count! — by Alison Formento

Busy Bees (Grades K-4)
In this lesson students explore concepts such as pollination and cross pollination between plants through a fun simulation. **Kit available from oregonaitc.org!**

Honey Bees: A Pollination Simulation (Grades 3-5)
Students identify the parts of a honey bee, the stages of its life cycle, and its role in pollination.

Weaving the Rainbow — by George Ella Lyon

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