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Where and what level do you currently teach and why did you choose to become an educator?

I teach grades K-2 in a multiage classroom at Emanuel Lutheran School at Hamburg. I became an educator because of my positive educational experiences growing up. I've been inspired by the great teachers I've had over the years and the colleagues I now work with. Growing up on a diversified farm, I had the opportunity to experience many different aspects of agriculture and I want my students to be well rounded and aware of all the ways agriculture touches their life.

Describe any agriculture based projects you have been involved in lately.

Teaching Ag in the classroom is a passion of mine and I tie it into all our curricular areas.

- Our school has received 4 [agricultural book bundles](#) provided by our local Farm Bureau which are great supplements to teaching various agricultural areas.
- Currently I am teaching a unit using curriculum materials from the [National Pork Board](#).
- I've written Ag related problem solving for math in all the math units I teach.
- We just sent home plants for Mother's Day that the children planted from slips last fall and cared for during the school year and now gave them to their moms.
- We have 24 chicken eggs in our classroom incubator due to hatch at the end of May.

- Our big focus during this last month of the school year is planting out school garden. Children have started plants that are under our grow light and in our mini-greenhouse. We have about half an acre of land planted into fruits and vegetables that are used in our school lunches, sold at our garden stand, with extras going to the food shelf. We compost our school lunch waste to put back into the garden. Coordinating the school garden over the past 4 years has happened with the support of many volunteers. It has been the most rewarding experience of my 24 year teaching career. It has been a very positive thing for our school and the support this project receives indicates that it's a successful venture. Attending the Summer Ag Literacy Institutes and the Schoolyard Garden Conferences at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum have helped me in developing our school garden program.



What advice do you have for other teachers on implementing agriculture into their classroom/program?

Look at what you are already teaching. I'll bet you can easily tie in agriculture in some way with what you're doing right now in any curricular area. Don't be afraid to teach something you know little about because there are people and resources available to help. There are so many aspects to explore and children are very receptive. There are many hands-on opportunities and that's a great way for kids and teachers to learn together.

Why do you believe it is important for our students to be agriculturally literate and aware in today's society?

Education needs to be well-rounded. In teaching agriculture, children are being made aware about sustaining the earth for their lives and for generations to follow.