

**Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
E-Newsletter Teacher Feature
Questions**



Why did you want to be a part of the MN Ag in the Classroom team as a Regional Ag Literacy Specialist and what region/area of MN are you in? I feel it is very important that all people have a basic understanding of agriculture, know where their food comes from and also understand the vast amount of jobs available in agriculture. Minnesota Ag in the Classroom is a great vehicle to reach those goals. I am hoping to help schools/teachers become aware of the resources available to them through Minnesota Ag in the Classroom. I am a Regional Ag Literacy Specialist in the southern part of the state.

How has agriculture and the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Program impacted your students and instruction? (or life in general) My background is not teaching in schools but I have "taught" many consumers and mothers about agriculture literacy through volunteer activities. To see them respond when they connect the dots and learn is extremely gratifying.

Describe any agriculture based projects you have been involved in lately. I am involved in many different agriculture projects. Projects that I have been involved in are helping develop a county agricultural tour, many farm-to-table dinner events, being a member and volunteering with the Minnesota Pork Board and I am also active in social media talking about my

farm and why we do what we do on our farm.

What advice do you have for other teachers on implementing agriculture into their classroom/program? I would just ask that teachers reach out to one of the Regional Ag Literacy Specialists and ask for assistance. That's why we are here. We are all very passionate about agriculture and see the need to instill basic ag literacy skills in our youth.

Why do you believe it is important for our students to be agriculturally literate and aware in today's society? Unfortunately, as someone who spends a fair amount of time with consumer outreach, the lack of agriculture literacy is scary. Food consumers are frustrated and confused about their food because they don't have those basic ag literacy skills. The lack of agriculture literacy also affects how farmers farm and how our food is produced and that doesn't always mean those changes are for the better.



******Do you teach in Southern MN? You can contact Wanda at wpatsche@gmail.com with any questions about MN Ag in the Classroom!**