Your organization is so generous in offering materials and have such high quality resources. You are a hidden gem and I wish more teachers would tap into your wealth of information. This is especially important as many teachers are operating on limited budgets and could do so much using the resources you provide. I am glad I found out about your organization and am so proud to be from a farm and share the great things you provide to teach my students about it.

THANK YOU for everything. Keep shining and being such a terrific resource for our state!! God bless you all.

-7th Grade Biology Educator, St. Cloud
FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear supporters, stakeholders, and friends of Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation:

The 2019-2020 year has shown me that our organization is surrounded by and has a team of the most wonderful and dedicated individuals, all striving towards the same mission and vision: to increase agricultural literacy and to have agriculture valued by all.

During the past year, our organization has experienced an immense amount of change and our team has stepped up to the challenges that arose. I, along with the rest of the Board of Directors, am very proud of the work accomplished.

In November of 2019, we welcomed Ann Marie Ward to the Foundation as the new Executive Director after Joel Mathiowetz stepped down. We cannot thank Joel enough for the service and leadership he provided during his six and a half years as the Foundation Executive Director and are excited to have Ann Marie join our team.

During this time of transition with the Executive Director, our programming also started transitioning. Our cornerstone educator resources have always been the AgMag and AgMag Jr. With its popularity, we decided to break the AgMag Jr. into grade-specific publications for Kindergarten, First, and Second. For the coming year we are working on Third and Fourth with Fifth and Sixth planned for publishing in 2021-2022.

COVID-19 also resulted in changes in how our Educational Specialists and Regional Curriculum Specialist team delivered and worked with educators. However, COVID-19 and distance learning also provided a great opportunity to highlight our online resources. Additionally, the entire team developed a Distance Learning Resource Area on our website not only for educators but also for parents and students, and they started a blog as well. All of these resources will continue to be of value as we begin a new school year in varying learning environments. I cannot commend our entire team enough for the job they have done working in this new environment!

Finally, I want to thank Erica Sawatzke, who resigned to focus on her family, for her leadership to MAITC as Chair of the Board for the majority of the year and her guidance to the organization over the past four years as a member of the board.

The future of our organization is bright thanks to your generous support, the important public-private partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the hard work and planning of MAITC’s board of directors and amazing staff, including Education Specialists Sue Knott and Keri Sidle; Social Media Specialist Gabbi Sparby; Regional Curriculum Specialists, Toni Dauwalter (Central MN), Sarah Kuschel (Northern MN), Wanda Patsche (Southern MN), and Ann Vote (Southwestern MN); and Executive Director, Ann Marie Ward.
A VALUED PARTNERSHIP

For three decades, the public and private sectors have pooled human and financial resources to advance agricultural literacy among K-12 students and educators through the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) program. This unique public/private partnership model, provides program consistency and credibility in Minnesota’s agricultural and educational communities and is known for effectively leveraging resources from both sectors.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is the lead for Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom program development and implementation, while the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation secures and manages private funds to support the overall program.

Funds committed to the program from both sectors are leveraged many times over. This partnership has also allowed MAITC to offer educational materials for FREE since program inception in 1985.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation began in 2007 to support the MAITC program. The foundation is led by a 15 member volunteer Board of Directors that represent agriculture and education communities. MAITC is a 501(c)3 not for profit charity.

Funders are vital to providing free educational resources, grants and outreach to the state’s K-12 education community.
Because of the unique public/private partnership, the MAITC team is comprised of both state and foundation staff. State staff includes two Education Specialists. Foundation staff includes an Executive Director and four Regional Agriculture Curriculum Specialists.
AgMag Series
We’re proud to continue expansion of our flagship publication! The following AgMag issues are now produced:

- AgMag K, AgMag 1, AgMag 2 Feature Fall and Winter issues for their respective grade levels.
- AgMag 3 Featuring the Specialty Crop edition this Fall and a new Spring edition for third grade learners.
- AgMag 4 Featuring new editions this Fall and Spring for fourth grade learners.
- AgMag Featuring a Fall, Winter and Spring edition for fifth and sixth grade learners.

Your financial contributions support these MAITC program initiatives.

Regional Agriculture Curriculum Specialists
The MAITC Foundation Regional Agriculture Curriculum Specialists build relationships with schools across the state and connects them to Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom resources. There are currently 4 specialists:
- Wanda Patsche - Southern
- Toni Dauwalter - Central
- Ann Vote - Southwestern
- Sarah Kuschel - Northern

Virtual Field Trips
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom hosted one virtual field trip on Facebook Live. Classrooms tuned in and asked questions during the live stream with a total of 75 classrooms joining live!
Distance Learning

Due to the rapid change that was required because of COVID-19, Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom supplied educators, parents and students alike with distance learning materials.

Monthly Themes & Social Media

The MAITC team establishes themes for each month of the school year. These themes create focus for social media posts and grade specific email newsletters.
Teacher Professional Development & Outreach

Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Education Specialists and Regional Agriculture Curriculum Specialists lead educator workshops and teacher tours for K-12 teachers, pre-service teachers, agriculture producers and volunteers at colleges and conferences around the state every year.

Customized workshops provide opportunities to gain resources and ideas for embedding authentic agricultural examples within science, social studies, math, language arts and health/nutrition curricula.

Trainings Conducted
- 511 Pre-Service Teachers
- 884 In-Service Teachers
- 265 Volunteers

Regional Specialist Impacts
- 1,727 Teacher Contacts
- 10,000 Students Impacted

Ag Literacy Grant Program
Teachers can apply for and receive grants for up to $1,000 for a special project. We awarded 14 different projects for a total of $9,848.68.
MAITC Program Website
The mn.agclassroom.org website hosts the Curriculum Matrix. Through the Curriculum Matrix, teachers have access to over 600 lesson plans and other companion resources that have been developed by teachers and organizations across the country.

Food for Thought Geography
This geography based curriculum was developed in partnership with the Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education and is directly aligned with Minnesota social studies academic standards. It includes 17 lesson plans, 42 Minnesota maps based on the most current USDA statistics, and new online, interactive crop and climate maps.

Supplemental Resources
There are a variety of additional resources aimed toward supplementing agricultural learning in the classroom including ag themed student placement/posters. These are available to K-12 Minnesota educators free of charge.

MAITC Intern
Our intern, Gabbi Sparby, assisted in marketing and promotion of programming and materials. This included creating content and managing our social media accounts, as well as our blog. She assisted in the planning of the summer virtual teacher tours and provided photography and graphic design expertise.

MAITC Foundation
Outstanding Teacher Award
Tiffany Kortbein, a kindergarten teacher at Greenvale Park Elementary School in Northfield. In her class, Kortbein teaches about the lifecycles of animals, agricultural vocabulary, and does hands-on work like making butter and pizza. Students take annual field trips to a dairy farm and an apple orchard, and help to incubate chicken eggs and raise baby chicks. In addition to her teaching efforts with kindergarten students, Kortbein works to bring agricultural education into her school at all grade levels as well. Congratulations Tiffany!
The summer tours allow K-12 educators to get a first-hand look into the world of agriculture. This year’s in person tours were brought to the virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Regional Curriculum Specialists from across the state teamed up to provide educators the opportunity to tour beehives, a logging site, crop fields, a bison and hog farm and a school garden from the comfort of their own space. There were four tours organized with a total of 103 educators attending.

Registered educators received a resource package including curriculum pieces and program information for each tour.
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Minnesota Beef Research & Prom. Council
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CHS Foundation’s Educating Next Generation Agricultural Leader Grant/NAITC
Lori Cox – Roots Return Farm
Katie and Kevin Davis
Lynn Hanson
Jenny Holmes
Martin County Corn & Soybean Growers
August 13, 2019

Dear Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Board of Directors,

Our firm has been in control of MAITC books for the fiscal year 2019-2020. We kept the books according to accepted accounting practices for not for profit organizations. We also prepared your annual Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt for Income Tax for the year 2018-2019. We will continue to retain control of MAITC books and maintain them according to accounting standards. Our firm will also continue to file the necessary forms for the Internal Revenue Service in a timely manner.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to continuing our relationship.

Sincerely yours,

Kelly Moeller, Principal
Anderson & Moeller, LLC
VISION  Agriculture is valued by ALL.

MISSION  
- Increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education.
- An agriculturally literate person is defined as someone who understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life.
- Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) programs seek to improve student achievement by applying authentic, agricultural-based content as the context to teach core curriculum concepts in science, social studies, language arts and nutrition. By encouraging teacher to embed agriculture into their classroom, AITC cultivates an understanding and appreciation of the food and fiber system that we all rely on every day.