



**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom
2009-10 Essay Contest for 4-5th grade students**

***“The machines that make
Wisconsin agriculture work”***

Students will be able to explore the history of farm machinery in Wisconsin; the importance machines and equipment have had in the advancement of agriculture and food production; machinery companies and inventors from Wisconsin; bio-fuel and energy production and usage; how our food is processed (i.e. cheese making, fluid milk production) and the machines and equipment used; or many other angles relating to agricultural machinery. Any essay relating to agricultural machinery or equipment will be acceptable.

Contest Rules:

- The essay contest is open to 4th and 5th grade students in public schools, private schools, and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS, and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink **or** be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be between 100 to 300 words in length (using common MS Word “word count” methods for counting words, numbers and abbreviations).
- Essays will be judged on content (25 points), grammar and spelling (15 points), and neatness (10 points).
- Essays must include: student’s name, grade level, parent’s name, teacher’s name, school name and address, school phone number, and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- Entry deadline: Postmarked by April 1, 2010 and sent to the county Farm Bureau or to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau- Ag in the Classroom office.

Contest Prizes:

- Nine district winners will be chosen. District and State Winners will be announced in May 2010.
- Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in the May 2010 for their class, homeroom, or home school group.
- A state winner will be chosen and will receive a special award.

Contest Deadline:

Essays are due to the county Farm Bureau or the Ag in the Classroom office **postmarked by April 1, 2010**. Teachers and parents are encouraged to make copies of essays before they are submitted.

County Farm Bureau Contact:
To find the address of your county Farm Bureau office, visit <http://www.wfbf.com/county/>

Or

Wisconsin Farm Bureau-Ag in the Classroom
Darlene Arneson
P.O. Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705

608-828-5719
darneson.fbcenter@wfbf.com

The Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest is sponsored by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.



**WISCONSIN MILK
MARKETING BOARD**
WISCONSIN DAIRY PRODUCERS



Return this form with essay **or** provide information on the back of each entry:

Student's name _____

Grade level _____

Parent's names _____

Teacher's name _____

School name _____

School address _____

City _____ Zip _____

School phone number _____

County _____

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“The machines that make Wisconsin agriculture work”

Students can pick a number of different ways to approach this topic. Here are some different options for starting points they could use for their research. Encourage them to consider other angles to explore as well! Any machinery or equipment related topics are acceptable.

- *My favorite farm machine or piece of equipment is a _____*
- *I wonder how this machine works? (i.e. How does a milking machine work? How does a tractor work? How does a methane digester work?)*
- *Life sure changed on farms when this machine was invented*
- *Did you know what kind of equipment is used in processing cheese? Milk? Cranberries? Other food products?*
- *What types of equipment or machines help with energy production or usage on farms?*
- *Do you know how bio-fuels and/or ethanol are produced?*
- *If I like farm machines and equipment, I wonder what kinds of careers I could go into when I get older?*
- *This farm machine helps to plant or harvest _____*
- *How machines and equipment help farmers*
- *Did you know that this machine was invented in Wisconsin?*
- *I'd love to learn how to operate this farm machine*
- *Did you know the history behind this piece of farm equipment or machinery?*
- *Students could select a commodity and discuss all the machines it takes to grow that crop from planting to harvest to processing*

Check out www.wisagclassroom.org for additional resources including:

- Full sheets of student entry form information (4 entry forms per sheet)
- Lesson plans related to this year's topic
- Activity sheets related to this topic
- Lists of websites and educational resources (i.e. books, videos, brochures) on the topic

The Ag in the Classroom provides resources to teachers to help students K-12 to explain the importance of agriculture. The program is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation with funding from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, other agricultural groups, and a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Learn more at www.wisagclassroom.org.