

There's a Farmer in My Classroom

2024-2025 Impact Report



Our Mission

To connect students to agriculture through engaging educational programs, fostering a deeper appreciation for food production, and inspiring a lifelong interest in agriculture and its diverse career paths through authentic relationships.

Program Overview

There's A Farmer in My Classroom is a virtual agriculture literacy program that brings Iowa agriculture directly into elementary classrooms. Designed to complement existing Ag in the Classroom efforts, or stand alone in underserved areas, this year-long program helps students understand where their food comes from, who grows it, and why it matters.

Key Program Components:

- Virtual Farm Tours: Showcasing the diversity of Iowa agriculture from row crops to livestock, and specialty operations.
- There's A Cow in My Classroom: A hands-on, beef-themed school year program tailored for second grade.
- Live Q&A Sessions: Students ask real farmers real questions during bi-monthly virtual meetups.
- Teacher Newsletters: Bi-weekly updates with ag facts, resources, grants, and lesson tie-ins.

Note from the Executive Director, Sara Preston

As the founder and Executive Director of There's A Farmer in My Classroom, I'm proud to reflect on an incredible first year. What began as a passion project to help students connect with where their food comes from has grown into a statewide movement, reaching over 360 classrooms and more than 9,000 students across Iowa in the 2024-2025 school year. Through virtual farm tours, interactive live sessions, and our popular There's A Cow in My Classroom unit, we've helped students explore modern agriculture in real, relatable ways. The feedback from teachers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many calling it one of the most engaging ag education tools they've used. The momentum is building as interest spreads into neighboring states, and we're excited for this upcoming year as we develop new resources, and continue building bridges between the farm and the classroom!





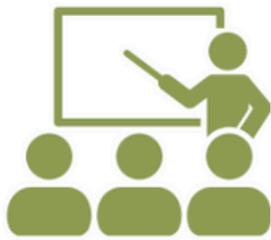
THERE'S A FARMER IN MY CLASSROOM AT A GLANCE

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR
YEAR ONE OF
PROGRAMMING

9,462

STUDENTS REACHED

These are students across the state of Iowa. This first year focus areas included Des Moines area, Sioux City and Cedar Falls.



CLASSROOMS REACHED

378

517



THERE'S A COW IN MY CLASSROOM STUDENTS

OUR PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW AND THRIVE!



What Teachers Are Saying

“My students still talk about the farmer who showed them how corn is harvested. It was like a lightbulb went off, they finally understood how food doesn’t come from a store!”

—3rd Grade Teacher, Cedar Falls

“There’s A Cow in My Classroom was a hit! The hands-on activities kept my kids engaged, and the connection to a real beef farmer that was raising the class cow that they got to name made it very memorable. Students are already saying how they wish they could keep their cow for next year.”

—4th Grade Teacher, Des Moines

“My students loved getting to see different farms around Iowa. Seeing the baby cows and going on the tour of a sheep farm was really neat. I am excited to use this program again next year. Thanks for taking time to share agriculture with my students! They loved it!”

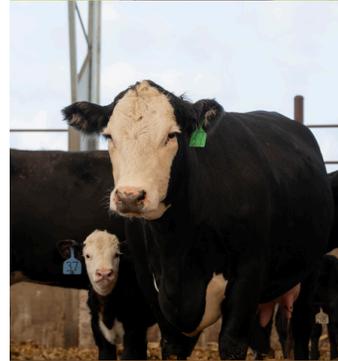
—5th Grade Teacher, Sioux City

Program Outcomes

- Increased agricultural awareness among 1st-5th grade students
- Boosted classroom engagement with real-world connections
- Fostered understanding of career opportunities in agriculture
- Bridged the rural-urban divide through authentic storytelling
- Connected elementary students to a great understanding of where their food comes from and the people that produce it

Community Impact

- Partnered with local farmers, county Farm Bureaus, and Ag in the Classroom coordinators to expand reach
- Provided free, accessible ag literacy content to underserved, urban and rural classrooms across Iowa
- Empowered teachers with accurate, engaging, and easy-to-use materials
- Inspired farm bureaus and other farmers to get into the classroom and talk about what they do on their farm
- Motivated farmers to invite local schools out to their farms



Thank You to Our Supporters

This program is possible thanks to generous donations, sponsorships, and the unwavering support of Iowa's agricultural community. Together, we're planting seeds of understanding, one classroom at a time.

A special thank you to:

These generous donors saw the vision and believed in the impact of There's A Farmer in My Classroom. Their support made it possible for us to reach thousands of students in our first year and to continue growing and inspiring even more classrooms in the year ahead.



Contact Info:

Sara Preston

sara@farmerinmyclassroom.com

712.209.7498

Learn more about There's a
Farmer in My Classroom at
farmerinmyclassroom.com
or scan the QR code.

