



To: Oregon Third-Fifth Grade Educators
From: Michele Ruby, Oregon Ag Fest Executive Director
Date: 2/2/2017
Re: **Win a Field Trip** for Your Classroom to a Special Day at Oregon Ag Fest on April 27

Dear Educators:

For the ninth year, Oregon Ag Fest is expanding its annual two-day event to include a special educational and fun activity day for ten winning Oregon classes.

The “*What We’re Made Of*” essay contest, sponsored by Oregon Ag Fest, is designed to get students talking about the products that are grown and raised locally, and learn about the unique food, fiber and flora grown in their area. For example, did you know Oregon ranks #1 for production of 16 different agriculture products, including peppermint, onions, and Christmas trees? Or that Oregon's biggest export is wheat, just an acre of which is enough to make 2,000 loaves of bread? How about that a hazelnut tree grows for four years before it has enough nuts to sell?

With seven different growing regions and 38,800 farms there is plenty to learn about Oregon agriculture. The Willamette Valley alone boasts more than 170 different agricultural products. Students might pick some of the larger industries, such as hay or dairy and talk about the processes these foods go through to get from the farm to the table, or they might pick lesser-known products like dahlias, or alpacas on which to learn more. For more information on Oregon agriculture, including teacher resources, go to: oregonaitc.org. You can also check out the helpful resources attached to this email.

Contest Guidelines/Details:

- 1) Essays not to exceed two-pages in length and must contain information about the food and/or fiber and flora grown locally that will help educate others about agriculture in your area
- 2) Hand-drawn pictures that reflect the essay content along with a one-sentence caption are required. An illustration form should accompany each essay. There is space at the bottom of the form to include the one-sentence summary (i.e. cool fact, something unique, or key learning about the part of Oregon agriculture that is featured in the essay)
- 3) Teacher may submit up to five essays from his/her classroom
- 4) Essays must include student’s name, school, teacher’s name, and grade level (3rd, 4th and 5th grade entries are accepted to accommodate split classrooms)
- 5) This contest is open to schools located in Oregon
- 6) All essays must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 24, 2017

**Mail essays, along with teacher contact info (including email & phone number) to:
Oregon Ag Fest, P.O. Box 9141, Salem, OR 97305**

Winners will be announced by April 7, and teachers of winning essays will be notified via email. Winners receive a certificate, a portion of bus transportation costs* to the special Ag Fest event on Thursday, April 27, 2017, materials for the day, and snacks at the event. Activities for the day will include creating living necklaces, learning about locally grown food and nutrition, milling wheat, mini-pedal tractor relays, petting farm animals, and much more!

Oregon Ag Fest is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) volunteer organization dedicated to educating the public about the importance of agriculture. Visit www.oragfest.com to learn more about the family oriented event that has been educating Oregonians for nearly 30 years about where their food and fiber comes from, and helping people experience life on the farm.

*Bus transportation reimbursement costs vary based on school location