



Ag in the Classroom Outdoor Classroom Garden Grant Program



The Outdoor Classroom Garden Grant Program is designed to show that agriculture is an integral part of our everyday environment. Farms, wildlife, forestry, people, and cities are all interrelated with agriculture. As most of Arkansas' wildlife resides on and feeds off private property, including farms and timberlands, the gardens can demonstrate the connection between agriculture, food, fiber, conservation, wildlife, and the urban environment.

Criteria for Schools, FFA Chapters, and 4-H Clubs

- A minimum of 100 students for average daily attendance
- The garden must be located on or adjacent to the school site
- A farmer volunteer, preferably a county Farm Bureau board member, must serve as a project advisor.
- Teacher involvement is mandatory, and parental involvement is recommended
- The gardens must contain crops such as corn, wheat, rice, soybeans, etc., and/or vegetables and fruits. Livestock projects, including bees, are also acceptable.
- This funding may not be used for flower beds, butterfly gardens or nature trails.
- **MANDATORY! Submit a short status report detailing the use of funds, including pictures/video (if possible) of the project. The project does not need to be complete. Due by June 1, 2026.**

General Information

- Applications will be accepted through **February 20, 2026.**
- These are matching-fund grants, and applications must include matching funds.
- Up to \$500 will be awarded for new gardens; up to \$250 will be awarded for ongoing garden projects.
- Matching funds may include monetary donations from outside organizations and businesses, school funds, and in-kind donations such as material, labor, equipment, etc.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the Outdoor Classroom Garden Grant Program, please contact Donette Spann at 501-228-1222, donette.spann@arfb.com; or Cindy Robertson at (501) 228-1569, cindy.robertson@arfb.com.