



Kansas Corn's Teacher-Led STEM-Based Education Program

Offering curriculum, materials
and training opportunities
for K-12 Kansas Educators

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter! See
what we have to offer to Kansas educators!

This is a newsletter written **by** teachers **for** teachers to keep up on what's happening with Kansas Corn's STEM-based education program! We've got curriculum, materials and training for K-12 teachers interested in incorporating inquiry techniques, and using corn to help students see how technology fits into their lives and their future!

Visit kscorn.com for CORNTASTIC education resources!

K-1 Teachers Secure your Corn Stalks

Corn harvest is starting in some parts of Kansas so now is the time to request your corn stalk(s) from a local farmer for your lesson. K-1 grade lesson *Corn and Life: A Kernel's Adventure* requires a stalk. In this inquiry-based learning lesson, students investigate where the corn seed is on the corn plant. A full stalk is needed so they can test out what part of the plant is the seed. They can plant the tassel, the leaf, the silk, the corn kernel, etc. to try to figure out the answer. This great lesson can be found at <https://kscorn.com/k-6-curriculum/1st-grade-curriculum/> If you need help identifying a farmer to receive your corn stalk email us at education@ksgrains.com.



5th Grade Unit Now Available!



We are excited to offer a 5th grade unit this coming school year. Based on direct observation and inquiry, students will learn the elements of a cornfield ecosystem, model the relationships among organisms through food chains and food webs and show how matter and energy move through a system. The unit includes four lessons. In Lesson 1, students observe the whole and parts of an outdoor ecosystem and begin to analyze the relationships among organisms in a corn field. In Lesson 2, students learn more about the individual organisms in the ecosystem. They use internet resources to gather and record information. Lesson 3 builds on their research as they model food chains and food webs in a corn field. Lesson 4 caps the unit off with explorations into the roles of agronomists in managing an agricultural food web, with students exploring STEM careers in agronomy. To learn more or to request materials visit www.kscorn.com/education.

Kansas Corn STEM Fourth Grade Lesson Taught in China

By Madison Blevins

Maize South High School science teacher and Kansas Corn Stem advisory board member Blake Smith participated in the "We Teach China" program that brought more than 100 teachers from the United States, Canada and Australia together to Jiangsu province in China. These educators had the opportunity to provide English speaking skills to Chinese teachers while also showing them a variety of teaching strategies used here in the United States.

The Kansas Corn Commission provided Smith with one of their 4th grade teaching kits, which included components that allowed the teaching of inquiry-based labs. With corn being a big commodity in China, it was the perfect lab to introduce to teachers to a lesson they can teach to their students.

"I would say the more input students have in driving the experimenting, the better. Let them try out of the box experimenting. Sometimes, the best ideas come from students just trying something new. It helps to increase critical thinking skills and engagement," said Smith.

The teachers experienced growing corn and then comparing it in Chinese versus American soil. The Chinese soil did better at first, but over time the American soil produced the best corn. According to Smith, there are a variety of teaching styles in China that were great to see. This trip was not only a teaching exchange, but also a cultural exchange. With the help of very driven teachers, everyone walked away with new knowledge in the field of teaching.



K-5 Professional Development

Professional development workshops are available to schools during the school year. Kansas Corn's Teachers Supporting Inquiry (TSI) offer two different workshops. The first is "plant a seed" with inquiry workshop where teachers are actively walked through inquiry-based lessons. Each teacher will walk away with free supplies for their classroom and will have a better understanding of inquiry based learning, and what resources Kansas Corn offers for the classroom. The second opportunity is the Corn Breakout workshop where participants learn about the history of corn while using breakout boxes to unlock new knowledge about resources available from the Kansas Corn Commission. Each school who hosts the ambassadors will receive breakout boxes to use in the classrooms and will be one of the first to receive corn-based activities using breakout boxes. To learn more and to request a professional development workshops visit <https://kscorn.com/k-6-training/>



Seed to STEM coming to Southwest Kansas!

The Southwest Plains Regional Service Center will be hosting a Seed to STEM workshop for their supporting districts on November 8-9. Twenty high school science teachers can attend the workshop this fall. Preference will be given to teachers who have not yet attended a workshop. Teachers will have the opportunity to learn how to teach the labs, collaborate with other teachers, meet industry leaders and tour an ethanol plant. All teachers who complete the Seed to STEM workshop receive \$500 worth of free lab equipment and are eligible for additional supplies as a graduate of the program. Graduate credit is available at the teacher's expense. On the Kansas Corn Website under 6-12 curriculum teachers can review the labs they will be learning under the high school track. To register visit <http://www.swprsc.org/vnews/display.v/ART/5b6df632c2dfd>

Seed to STEM and CASE Mini Grant Application

Kansas Corn STEM understands that many of the labs that we support have consumable items that need refilled or equipment requirements that you may not have in your classroom. It is important to us that we keep supporting teachers who are dedicated to teaching about our industry in the classroom. If you are a Seed to STEM graduate or an ag educator who has received CASE supplies from Kansas Corn you are eligible to request additional lab supplies via our mini grant application. Applications are due September 17th. To fill out the application visit: <https://kscorn.com/minigrantapp/>

New to learning about Kansas Corn STEM? Check out all of our offering at www.kscorn.com/education and request materials at <https://kscorn.com/request-materials/>

Email us at education@kscorn.com

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