

Agriculture in the Classroom NL

Annual Report

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022



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Greetings from the Chair

AITC NL has had a very busy and exciting year.

The participation in all our programs increases every year and this past year is no exception. We have increased our Little Green Thumbs and Sprouts gardens and vermicomposting kits in NL classrooms and have increased the overall number of student experiences.

We are proud to say we have many of our resources in French now. We will continue to translate our resources to ensure inclusion and participation in our program.

In the past, AITC NL's presence was mostly in K – Grade 6 classes. We have been working to increase our presence in junior and high schools.

We continue to work very closely with AITC Canada. AITC Canada is our national organization and continues to seek out supports to increase the capacity of its provincial members through resources, new partnerships, and financial support. AITC Canada is making great strides in securing national funding that can be distributed to all provinces to assist with implementation of national projects. We will continue to have NL representative on their board. AITC NL staff also sit on several other AITC Canada committees and sub-committees.

SOME OF 2022's HIGHLIGHTS are:

- 20 NEW LGT gardens. Total 192 LGT gardens
- 52 NEW Little Green Sprouts gardens. Total of 123 LGS gardens.
- 8 new vermi-composting kits (total 80)
- At the Ag Expo, we hosted 2 Amazing Agriculture Adventure with 500 students participating.
- LGT culinary demonstrations were hosted at our Corner Brook and Grand Falls-Windsor's Agriculture Expos with LGT students showing off their culinary skills.
- On February 22, 2022, AITC- NL hosted a virtual Canada's Agriculture Day at St. Mary's Elementary School in St. John's. Over 220 students and staff participated.
- AITC-NL also shared a virtual performance from JUNO Award winning children's music group The Swinging Belles from St. John's. 119 teachers and the teachers at St. Mary's Elementary received the link for The Swinging Belles and had a great time participating in the concert. Over 2700 students tuned in for the performance with 152 views on YouTube.
- In celebration of Canada's Ag Day on February 22, 2022, in collaboration with the Young Farmer Forum, a Young Farmers Panel was held virtually in high schools across Newfoundland and Labrador.

- March 7-15, 2022 a virtual Career Expo was hosted virtually in high schools across Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thank you to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Dept of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture and all the stakeholders for their support throughout these challenging times.

We would like to thank the teachers, parents, volunteers, Committee members and staff for standing by the Program and growing with us.

For more details, please view our Annual Report 2022 at www.aitcnl.ca.

We look forward to growing with you in 2023.

Terri Lynn Robbins

Annual Report 2022

Vision:

Our vision is to connect youth to agriculture through education.

Mission Statement:

AITC-NL will take a leadership role in developing competencies and offering educational programs and resources that promote agriculture awareness in youth. AITC-NL will deliver the message that agriculture is an important contributor to our economy, the health of our communities, and the sustainability of our food system.

This annual report gives an overview of all the projects and events that AITC-NL delivered from January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2022. Agriculture in the Classroom NL's sustaining partner is the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.

Agriculture in the Classroom NL (**AITC-NL**) continues to deliver agriculture education in a fun, interactive, hands-on, and inquiry-based learning manner.

The AITC-NL program continues to expand and reach our goal of connecting students from K to 12 with agriculture. Our program is only as strong as the dedication and passion from the members of the AITC-NL Steering Committee and our volunteers. AITC-NL had many volunteers assisting us in achieving our success with all our programs and events throughout the year.

We would like to thank our major partners the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture and Canadian Agricultural Partnership program. We would like to thank the community partners, sponsors, and business/commodities that support our program. We would also like to thank the teachers and administrators from all the schools across Newfoundland and Labrador that opened up their classrooms to us.

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Steering Committee

A Steering Committee for the AITC was designated in January 2011 and is comprised of the following representatives:

1. Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA)
2. Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
3. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
4. Department of Education
5. Stakeholder Organizations

Steering Committee Members:

Eugene Legge – NLFA

Melvin Rideout – NLFA

Michelle Lester – NLFA

Terri Lynn Robbins – NLFA
 Philip Smallwood - NLFA
 Crystal Anderson Baggs – Dept. of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
 Cindy MacDonald – Dept. of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
 Ellen Coady – Department of Education
 Lesley Cowan – AAFC
 Matthew Carlson – School Milk Foundation of NL

Agriculture in the Classroom Staff:

Maureen Foley – Little Green Thumbs Coordinator
 Chelsea Foley – Agriculture In The Classroom NL Coordinator
 Lisa Davis – Outreach Coordinator
 Nicole Parrell – Financial/Office Manager (until June, 2022)

Social Media Accounts/websites

Facebook: Agriculture in the Classroom NL: <https://www.facebook.com/AITCNL>
 Twitter: @AITCNL
 Instagram: @aitcnl
 YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa3wW--tzwBDo-tIYkKFZGQ/videos>
 Website: www.aitcnl.ca



LITTLE GREEN THUMBS NL PROGRAM

Background

Little Green Thumbs (LGT) and Little Green Sprouts (LGS) are programs within the Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador (AITC-NL) program. AITC NL is a registered Canadian charity. AITC-NL is hosted by the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA).

The Little Green Thumbs (LGT) program is an indoor gardening program, currently in its 11th year, for primary and elementary students in NL. It gives the students and teachers the opportunity to become food producers right in their own classroom.

Little Green Sprouts (LGS) was introduced to teachers in January 2019. It is a junior Little Green Thumbs program. It is a gardening program for grades K to 2 that includes a smaller system for micro-greens (lettuce, herbs, etc). It enables our younger students to care for their own garden.

Ongoing support has been provided for all teachers throughout the entire school by the Little Green Thumbs coordinator, volunteer mentors, LGT National office and other teachers. There is a national website www.littlegreenthumbs.org.

Overview LGTs and LGSs: January 2022 to June 2022 (School Year 2021-2022)

- 168 LGT gardens (3700 students)
- 83 LGS gardens. (1520 students)

September 2022– December 2022 (School Year 2022-2023)

- 192 LG Thumbs gardens (4000 students)
- 123 LG Sprouts gardens

LGT/LGS is in 120 elementary/primary schools across Newfoundland and Labrador.

The gardens have inspired conversations about nutrition, healthy eating, cooking and planting. Children who grow their own food are much more willing to try new foods. The Little Green Thumbs and Sprouts gardens have become the focal point of the classroom. Many outdoor school community gardens have grown from the LGT classroom gardens. Students have their families participating in growing at home and have developed home and community gardens with the skills they have acquired through the LGT's program.

Ongoing support has been provided for all teachers throughout the entire school by the Little Green Thumbs coordinator, volunteer mentors, LGT National office and other teachers. There is a national website www.littlegreenthumbs.org.



Kindergarten Science Curriculum

In June 2022, AITC-NL and LGT collaborated with the Department of Education to implement a LGS joint pilot project. Even though LGS was already in the schools, the Department of Education wanted to test the LGS program to identify its value as a designated resource to the new Kindergarten Science curriculum. This pilot was very successful and in September 2022 the LGS garden was officially designated as a resource in the NL Kindergarten Science curriculum. A teachers' Professional Learning Day was held at the end of September which created requests for 30 more LGS garden. More training is to be held for kindergarten teachers and we expect many more requests.



LGS National Song

More exciting news came from the LGT National office. As the LGT song was written and produced in NL, AITC-NL/LGT were asked to secure songwriters to write and produce a LGS song, in our province. This song is underway and will be used as the national theme song for LGS and will launch in 2023.

Little Green Thumbs - Virtual Teachers' Training Session

On October 6, 2022, a LGT virtual teachers training session was hosted. In attendance were 11 new teachers with new gardens and 15 new teachers with current gardens. There are 18 new classes that have joined the Little Green Thumbs Program and have received a new garden kit for their class.

An overview of Agriculture in the Classroom Program was presented along with details of available resources, activities, events, and contests.

Details were discussed on how it all starts, journals, seeds, germination, transplanting, vermi-composting and of course, recipes and eating. Benefits of the program to teachers and students were discussed, such as: curriculum links; how gardens improve social and emotional well-being; creates meaningful connections between gardens and agriculture; builds environmental

stewardship; knowledge of local food and farmers; build responsibility and classroom inclusiveness; plants the seed of healthy eating; transforms wonder into knowledge; and creates great pride in knowing they can grow something themselves.

The final session was the Teachers' Perspective Panel. Three current Little Green Thumbs teachers joined us to discuss their experiences with their garden. Some teachers have had their gardens for 11 years since the beginning of the Program.

It was a great day of virtual learning and making new connections. Now our new teachers are ready to start the growing experience with their students.

Little Green Thumbs Culinary Demonstrations

In the fall of 2022, AITC-NL highlighted the Little Green Thumbs program by hosting a Little Green Thumbs Culinary Demonstration at the NL Federation of Agriculture's Agriculture Expos.

LGT students from Templeton Academy (Corner Brook Expo) and Helen Tulk (Grand Falls-Windsor Expo) took to the stage to show off their culinary skills by making smoothies. Students created their own recipes and shared their creations with the audience. The students had a great time sharing their love of their gardens with the audience. It was really great to see students making the connection between produce they grew in their gardens and how they can use them in creative recipes. This is always a great experience for teachers, students and Little Green Thumbs.



Harvest Celebrations

In May and June, students celebrated their gardening experience through in-class salad-brations, culinary sessions and farm tours (in-person and virtual).

LGT-NL provided t-shirts to all LGT students that participated in the Program.

Class visits and presentations took place through Google Classroom. Activities provided were:

- Reading of "What's Growing Around Us" & Living Necklace activity (sent supplies in advance of meeting);
- Worm presentation and PowerPoint interactive activity;

- Reading of “Alex’s First Seed” & PowerPoint interactive activity;
- Reading of “Reggie’s Technology Adventure” and PowerPoint interactive activity;
- Presentation on “What Plants Need” (Nutrients For Life guest) – NPK Bracelet activity (sent supplies in advance); and
- Reading of “Blossom’s Big Job” and PowerPoint interactive activities.



Other Virtual Activities

- LGT/LGS students participated in Canada’s Agriculture Day virtual event.
- LGT/LGS classes participated virtually in Canadian Agriculture Literacy during the month of March.

Long term impact surveys

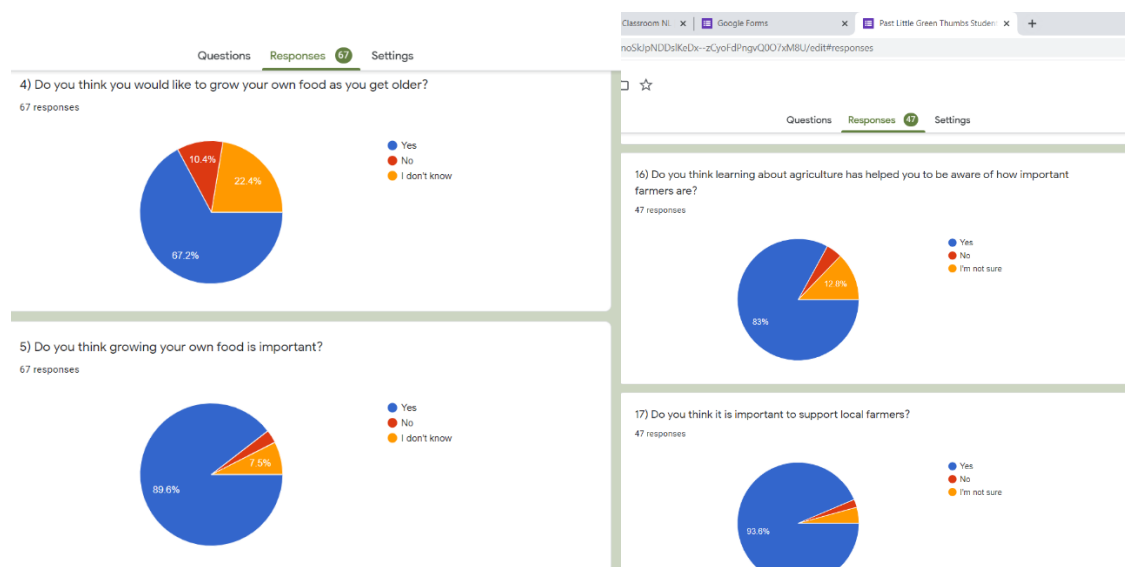
LGT/AITC-NL had developed a series of surveys that will provide information on the long-term impacts of LGT/AITC-NL programs, resources, and events. The goal of these surveys is to see if AITC-NL programs, initiatives, and events have an impact on students’ views and attitudes of

agriculture. These surveys will provide information if the students would be interested in a career in agriculture in the future.

Surveys were distributed in May of 2022. Results from the survey showed that there was an increase of awareness of the importance of agriculture and local farms and farmers, in students both current and past Little Green Thumbs students. It also showed an increase in positive attitudes towards healthy eating, eating local and cooking at home. Teachers and parents think that supporting local, learning about agriculture and learning about agriculture careers is important.

The surveys were distributed during the school year 2021-2022. Surveys were distributed to:

- Grade 3/4s students that were doing Little Green Thumbs;
- Grade 6/7s students that had previously done Little Green Thumbs and still participate in other AITC-NL activities and initiatives;
- Parents of past Little Green Thumbs students,
- and Grade 6/7 teachers of past Little Green Thumbs students



Sample of results from Google Forms

Sponsorship and Funding Acquisitions

AITC-NL/LGT would like to thank all its supporters for their contributions to the Program. All contributions help us to reach more students every year in sharing the story of agriculture in our Province. The development of virtual resources and visits have enabled AITC-NL/LGT to visit classrooms that we were unable to visit before. The virtual world has given many more students the opportunity to participate in our events, contests and activities.

We would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support:

- Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program;
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada;
- NL Department of Education-Official Languages in Education Program;

- Farm Credit Canada;
- Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan- Little Green Thumbs National;
- Agriculture in the Classroom Canada;
- United Way NL (funding for promix and fertilizer);
- VOCCM Cares Foundation;
- CanadaHelps
- School Milk Foundation of NL;
- Lester's Farm Market;
- NL Beekeeping Association;
- Egg Farmers of NL;
- Chicken Farmers of NL;
- Exploits Meadow Farms;
- Wright's Family Farm
- Three Mile Ridge
- Upper Humber Settlement
- Tuckaway Farm

Grade 7-12 Initiatives

The Outreach Coordinator is part-time with AITC-NL and part-time with NL Young Farmers' Forum. This position has enabled us to reach more junior and high school students to create awareness of agriculture careers. We can also start to bridge the educational gap in the areas of agriculture career information and the support for new entrants/farmers in NL. The Outreach Coordinator, with the help of the Department of Education and Agriculture in the Classroom NL

thinkAg Career Expo

AITC-NL has been expanding its reach into high schools. As part of this initiative, AITC-NL hosted a virtual thinkAG Career Expo March 7-15, 2022, as part of Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month celebrations. The goals of this event was to increase awareness of agriculture, agri-foods, agri-science careers to high school students; to encourage and attract new entrants to the agriculture industry; to provide direction on where to find agriculture career information; and to equip students with additional career information to better identify, evaluate and choose a career path.

Initially, the thinkAG Career Expo was being planned as an in-person, one day event with interactive and engaging booths at O'Donel High School with the participation of Mount Pearl Senior High School. However, because of Covid19, in late December, it was decided to switch to a virtual event and spread the various sessions throughout the week of March 7th.

Volunteer presenters representing a variety of sectors in agri-food provided interesting and motivating sessions. Many of the presenters engaged the students in a variety of activities whereby the students had to demonstrate teamwork, communication and critical thinking skills.

At the outset, the goal was to reach at least 250 students, teachers and volunteers. Covid19 continued to hamper our efforts during the planning process, including the first few days of the week-long event, where our main contact teacher and many of his students were home sick with Covid. Despite this, 518 students participated in the ThinkAG Career Expo, often with our

teacher organizing classes from his home office. There were 10 virtual sessions incorporating 11 volunteer presenters: Agribusiness, Lester's Farm Market; Food Security, Nutrients for Life (Journey 2050); Dairy Farming (Robotic Milking operation); AITC-C (Career Case); Climate Change & Sustainable Agriculture (MUN, Grenfell Campus); Agriculture Marketing, (DFFA); University & College Careers (College of the North Atlantic & Dalhousie University); Hydroponics (SucSeed); Plant Science/Diseases (Agriculture Agrifoods Canada (AAFC)); and Chickens 101 with Brad Jones.

Other Initiatives:

In partnership with the Climate Change Project of NLFA, AITC-NL launched an online climate change resource on the website. Students learn about how climate change is affecting farmers in Newfoundland and Labrador and how farmers are adapting and mitigating climate change. There are interactive activities for teachers and students. This page can be updated as the Living Labs project progresses here in NL.

AITC-NL continues to work with AITC-Canada on developing new resources for Junior High and High Schools. AITC-NL has helped link programs and events to the NL curriculum. The teachers' portal under the resources section of AITC-NL's website allows teachers to access resources that are applicable to their grade level and subject area. AITC-NL has also delivered resource packages to Junior High/High Schools in rural NL. We have also forwarded packages to schools that have requested information on our available resources.

AITC-NL worked with AITC-Canada to launch thinkAG's Career Case game. The goal of the thinkAG Career Case game is to demonstrate the diversity, variety, and importance of careers in agriculture. Through participation, students will have an increased awareness and interest in the careers that are a part of the agriculture sector. Students will become more aware of the diversity of skills, interests, experiences, and opportunities in agriculture. Diversity is a strength in problem solving. The people in the agriculture community have a broad diversity of interests, skills, education, and backgrounds which help to solve everyday problems. We hope that by playing this game, students can begin to envision themselves and their diverse interests as having a place in agriculture.

AITC-NL works closely with AITC-Canada on Career and National Initiatives through committees and provincial sharing sessions. Resources for teachers and students that are developed by AITC-Canada staff are utilized by provincial members.

Journey 2050 takes students on a virtual simulation that explores world food sustainability. Using an inquiry-based approach the program encourages students to make decisions and adjust them as they see their impact on society, the environment and the economy on a local and global scale. The students experience the lives of three farm families in Kenya, India, and Canada.





Kindergarten to Grade 6 Resources Development

AITC-NL YouTube Channel

Agriculture in the Classroom NL has posted many videos on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa3wW--tzwBDo-tfYkKFZGQ/videos>

The YouTube Channel includes Farm Tour videos, Recipe videos, student videos and Little Green Thumbs instructional videos. These videos are great resources for teachers and students to

use in the classroom. Newly added videos include: French Field to Plate, French Technology in Agriculture, Recon Development Cranberry Farm, D & D Farms, Living Water Farms, 3 Women in Agriculture videos, Rogers TV St. John's AITC-NL episodes and more!



Resource Development

AITC-NL continues to develop resources with assistance from the AITC-NL Steering Committee, agriculture professionals and the NLESD. During 2022, AITC-NL launched a variety of new resources for events such as the Amazing Agriculture Adventure, Canada's Agriculture Day and Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month.

Growing at Home Gallery and Contest 2022

Agriculture in the Classroom NL (AITC-NL) has not only been encouraging students to grow in their classrooms through the Little Green Thumbs program, Little Green Sprouts program and vermi-composting program, but we've been highlighting students, parents and teachers that have been starting their gardens at home in the summer. During the pandemic, a lot of people started growing their own fruits and vegetables at home. Agriculture in the Classroom NL took notice of this and started the Growing At Home Gallery in 2020. Students, parents and teachers shared with us what they were growing at home and their progress throughout the summer.

For the Growing At Home Gallery 2022, AITC-NL hosted a contest. MUNN Poultry Farm Ltd. generously sponsored three Little Green Sprouts gardens for this contest. Students, parents and teachers shared what they have been growing at home and entered to win one of three available Little Green Sprouts gardens. Little Green Sprouts is an indoor garden kit that inspires hands-on learning and inquiry into seeds, nutrition, soil science, plant needs, how food is grown and more! The Little Green Sprouts garden kit includes a variety of microgreens, lettuce and herbs that students can grow in their classroom, but for this contest, they get to use it at home!

This contest was successful with engaging students, parents and teachers throughout the summer months. Students have been able to showcase the skills that they have learned in the classroom through AITC-NL programming at home. Agriculture in the Classroom NL is grateful to everyone that participated in this contest.



Trade Shows and events

AITC-NL attended the virtual NL Federation of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting (AGM) events in January 2022. AITC-NL presented its annual report for 2021 on the NLFA website and highlighted programs and events in a project update presentation.

Covid-19 changed the way people 'attended' meetings. AITC-NL took part in virtual events and in-person events throughout the year that were offered by partner organizations. AITC-NL were present at the following events: NLFA Annual Virtual AGM and workshops, Climate Change workshop, NLBKA Working Together workshop, AITC-Canada's National Sharing, Learning Management System meeting, Little Green Thumbs National Meeting, NLFA Agriculture Expos, Public Trust Summit and more.

Amazing Agriculture Adventure

Agriculture in the Classroom NL's Amazing Agriculture Adventure (AAA) returned to the NL Federation of Agriculture's Agriculture Expos! After a Covid-hiatus, the AAA returned to an in-

person event at both the Agriculture Expo hosted in Corner Brook on September 29th and Grand Falls-Windsor on October 14th, 2022. Over 550 students and teachers participated in the AAA where students went from booth to booth and visit farmers and agriculture representatives to learn about the NL agriculture industry. Students were excited to be back to doing hands-on activities including making nutrient bracelets, living necklaces, vegetable painting, petting farm, beekeeping displays and much more!

Switching to virtual delivery has taught AITC-NL that we can reach more students with agriculture education through reimagined virtual events. AITC-NL brought the Amazing Agriculture Adventure to classrooms across NL virtually. The virtual AAA took place November 28 to December 9, 2022. 53 Grade 5 and 6 teachers from across the province signed up to participate. Teachers were provided with a package that included video links to 17 farm tours and agriculture related videos and the classes answered a series of questions based on whichever 4 videos they chose. Topics included in the farm tours videos were Food Safety, Chicken Farming, Berry Farming, Lester's Farm Market tour, Mark's Market tour, Honey Bee Farm, Dairy Farm, Egg Processing, Cranberry Farming, Plant Adaptations, Technology in Agriculture and more.

Each class that participated entered to win a class prize. 5 winners were chosen, however each participating class received a set of resources and activities from AITC-NL. Winners were provided The Seed Detective kit where students investigate mystery seeds to guess what plants they are growing! The winners of the Virtual Amazing Agriculture Adventure were: Ms. Perry, Southwest Arm Academy; Ms. Cadwell, Newtown Elementary; Ms. Johnston, Stephenville Middle School; Ms. Paddock, Henry Gordon Academy and Ms. Brown, Riverwood Academy.

Thank you to the over 850 students and teachers that participated in both the in-person and virtual Amazing Agriculture Adventure!



Canada's Agriculture Day – February 22, 2022



Canada's Agriculture Day is a time to showcase all of the amazing things happening in our industry and create a closer connection with consumers about where their food comes from and the people who produce it. The 2022 event was held on February 22, 2022. It was the sixth time the industry has dedicated a day to celebrating agriculture and the people in the industry across the country. Newfoundland and Labrador participated in this event and showcased the agriculture industry to all students across the province.

Elementary Event:

As part of the celebrations, Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador (AITC-NL) hosted a virtual event with St. Mary's Elementary, Waterford Bridge Road, St. John's, with 200 students, staff and teachers. The event included interactive presentations and hands-on activities for all students through Google Classroom. To kick off the event, greetings were brought to the students from the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture from Minister Bragg, the Department of Education from Minister Osborne and the NL Federation of Agriculture from Terri Lynn Robbins, Chair of AITC-NL and Treasurer of the Federation.

The kindergartens to Grade 3 classes participated in doing the Living Necklaces with AITC-NL and the Grade 4s to 6s participated in doing the Three Essential Nutrients bracelets with AITC-NL. Students received Canada's Agriculture Day stickers and tattoos, as well as placemats with agriculture facts on it. AITC-NL also provided every student with a lunch bag for their lunch that was provided. Chicken Farmer's of Newfoundland and Labrador provided a donation of chicken for chicken wraps. School Milk Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador donated milk for all students for their lunch as well. Lunch was prepared and delivered by Belbin's Grocery in St. John's, NL. Agropur also donated ice cream sandwiches for the student's recess which was delivered by AITC-NL.

AITC-NL also shared a virtual performance from JUNO Award winning children's music group The Swinging Belles from St. John's. The band, who perform in a swing jazz style, consists of vocalists Laura Winter and Erin Power, and guitarist Duane Andrews. 119 teachers and the teachers at St. Mary's Elementary received the link for The Swinging Belles and had a great time participating in the concert. Over **2700 students** tuned in for the performance with 152 views on YouTube.

The Swinging Belles video: <https://youtu.be/oXNiOoWfUuE>

High school virtual event:

The NL Young Farmer's Forum, along with Agriculture in the Classroom NL (AITC-NL) hosted a virtual Young Farmer's Panel for high school students on February 22, 2022. Four classes, roughly 70 students from J.M Olds Collegiate in Twillingate participated in the event.

Four young farmers from the agriculture community who chose farming as a career spoke candidly to the students about what they do and why they chose their career path.

The panel consisted of: **Susan Lester**, a sixth-generation fruit and vegetable grower from St. John's, and also serves as Chair of the NL Young Farmers' Forum; **Darren Dinsmore**, a Beef Farmer and Baptist Pastor in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, who is also the Labrador board representative with the NL Young Farmers' Forum; **Nancy Lester**, a sixth-generation farmer with Lester's Dairy Farm in St. John's, who is also the Secretary-Treasurer of the NL Young Farmers' Forum and **Stephanie Lipp**, originally from Mississauga, Ontario, who now farms gourmet mushrooms with her partner in Bonavista. Stephanie is also a board member on the NL Young Farmers Forum and is a mentee in the Young Farmers' mentorship program.

This initiative was designed to help link the work between the Young Farmers Initiative and Agriculture in the Classroom NL (AITC-NL).

Social Media Contest:

AITC-NL in collaboration with our commodity partners we hosted a social media campaign for all school students through Twitter. Most classes in Newfoundland and Labrador are permitted to use Twitter. There was a contest for teachers and students to enter via Twitter and was advertised on our other social media platforms. This provided a technology and interactive environment so all teachers and students can get involved as well as get more followers for our social media platforms.

Tracey Temple at Holy Family Elementary in Chapel Arm and Tracy Kerrivan at Roncalli Elementary in St. John's were the winners of the Canada Agriculture Day social media contest.



Young Farmers Forum | **CANADA'S AGRICULTURE DAY** | **Agriculture in the Classroom NL**

Let's celebrate the food we love

ATTENTION NL TEACHERS!
CANADA'S AGRICULTURE DAY IS FEBRUARY 22ND AND AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM NL AND THE NL YOUNG FARMER'S FORUM ARE HOSTING A VIRTUAL YOUNG FARMER'S PANEL

JOIN 4 YOUNG FARMER'S AS THEY SHARE THEIR STORIES ABOUT THEIR CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 10:00A.M.
WWW.AITCNL.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR E-MAIL: LISA@NLFA.CA

thinkAG
Inspiring educators that feed our world

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP | **Newfoundland Labrador** | **Canada**



The Swinging Belles Concert



Ms. Payne's Class Cloud River

Ms. Colbourne's class Holy Redeemer

Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month 2022



Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month is a national initiative hosted by AITC-Canada. The event was held in Newfoundland and Labrador March 1-31, 2022.

CALM is a hands-on program that encourages children to learn about and celebrate agriculture in various ways, including reading books about agriculture and watching virtual farm tours and agriculture videos. The theme for CALM is “Our Food, Our Story.” An important element of this event is the connection between students, local farmers and agriculture industry representatives and AITC-NL strives to continue to make that connection.

AITC-NL delivered this program in Kindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms across Newfoundland and Labrador in a month-long virtual event. AITC-NL shared the stories of farmers and agriculture professionals with online presentations, virtual farm tours and other resources.

AITC-NL launched a new storybook, “Plant, Grow, Eat, Share.” Follow Abby and Fabian as they plant and care for their indoor classroom garden. Not only do they work together to grow Tiny Tim Tomatoes, but they grow a friendship and an appreciation for growing their own food and other cultures.

On March 1, 2022, AITC-NL hosted a virtual CALM Launch with Natasha Caine and Kayla Legge’s classes at Templeton Academy, as well as, Kim Cleary and Debbie Sacrey’s classes at J.J. Curling Elementary. 108 students participated. Special guests were Terri Lynn Robbins and Melvin Rideout. This was the first time the new storybook had been read. Students also participated in a hand-on activity called “What Plants Need”. This included a powerpoint presentation and the making of a bracelet “Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium”. Materials were mailed out in advance of the virtual launch.

Kindergarten to Grade 6 virtual presentations/visits took place throughout the month of March.

As previously mentioned, the High School thinkAG Career Expo also took place during CALM.

National Event

NL students participated in a national initiative called the Great Canadian Farm Tours. AITC-Canada hosted the Great Canadian Farm Tours which included virtual visits to 11 farms across Canada focusing the diversity of commodities across Canada.

Students had the opportunity to learn about Canada's agriculture and food story, connect and interact virtually with real farmers and experience farm environments across Canada.

On March 3, 2022, NL's Trouter's Special (Bay Bulls) was featured highlighting vermi-composting.

Vermi-composting Farm Tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEcZExTSdO4>

Participation: 84 teachers with 1739 students participated in the Great Canadian Farm Tours



Bee Creative Literacy Contest March 2022

AITC-NL partnered with the Newfoundland and Labrador Beekeeping Association (NLBKA) and Egg Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador (EFNL) again to host the Bee Creative Literacy Contest for NL kindergarten to grade 6 classes in March 2022. The contest ended April 1st. AITC-NL had 14 entries this year (lower than usually, assuming due to virtual presentations and also other contests happening in March). This year, thanks to the NLBKA, there were 14 hives available for participating classes. The winning classes had the opportunity to decorate the beehive anyway that they chose (school mascot, school colors, etc.) Then, the beehive was returned to the participating Beekeeper's farm where it will be taken care of in the name of the school/class.



Agriculture in the Classroom Canada

“Agriculture in every classroom, inspiring every student”

Canada has a remarkable agriculture and food story! Agriculture in the Classroom Canada (AITC-C), and its ten member organizations are dedicated to engaging, empowering, and inspiring youth to the exciting world of agriculture and food.

With our network of partners, stakeholders and volunteers, we provide accurate, balanced and current, curriculum-linked resources for students at all grade levels to inspire meaningful connections to agriculture and food.

At AITC-C, we love collaborating with our members to deliver national AITC initiatives including Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month and thinkAG, our exploratory, career-focused initiative. thinkAG has ignited exciting resources such as an interest self-assessment app; Kareero, and a career exploration board game; Career Case. AITC members also distribute our national teaching resources accessible through the Canadian Educator’s Resource Library and help students learn about hot button topics in agriculture by reviewing the dynamic snapAG information sheets.

We are powered by AITC-C’s insightful and dedicated board of directors and Chelsea Foley, Agriculture in the Classroom NL’s AITC Coordinator, is the voice at the national table for Newfoundland and Labrador.

“We are proud of what the AITC collective has been able to accomplish from coast to coast. AITC-C is the integral piece of creating meaningful connections with students, educators, and agriculture sector professionals in PROV,” said Johanne Ross, Executive Director of AITC-C. “Our members are the delivery network between classrooms and agriculture education resources and programs. Together, we are stronger, with a reach and impact that would be unattainable without the AITC collective’s collaboration and coordination.”

Agriculture in the Classroom Canada is able to celebrate over 2 million student experiences across Canada each year, because of the commitment and passion from the AITC members. [Read more here in our national impact report.](#)



Conclusion

AITC-NL revised its usual way of achieving its objectives for the past school year, but AITC-NL managed to continue to connect youth to agriculture through education. We attribute the success of the AITC-NL and LGT programs in Newfoundland and Labrador to hands-on support provided by the AITC-NL Coordinator, LGT Coordinator, and the Outreach Coordinator.

AITC-NL would like to extend a BIG ‘thank you’ to our dedicated teachers, school administrators, wonderful volunteers, Steering Committee members in particular our class mentors across Newfoundland and Labrador. We would not have this success without them!