



2022 STAR Spotlight on Teaching Agriculture

The STAR Spotlight on Teaching Agriculture award was created to shine a spotlight on teachers for the outstanding and innovative work they do in classroom & lab instruction, and in serving their local program and community.



The Spotlight award is an initiative of the Oklahoma State Teach Ag Results, or STAR, program. The goal of the STAR program to recruit and retain high quality, effective agricultural education teachers.

The following 4 teachers represent their respective areas of Oklahoma and were nominated by their teaching peers. Along with their recognition, each teacher will receive a \$200 award. We are excited to shine a spotlight on these exceptional teachers, and we encourage all Oklahoma teachers to consider a peer they would like to nominate next year.

STAR Spotlight on Teaching Agriculture

Crystal Shipman, Poteau



“Crystal has started numerous outside the box teaching methods. Her love for soil science has brought in classroom worm farms and showing student the importance of healthy soils and a thriving ecology.”

“Crystal is dedicated to lifelong learning within the agricultural field. She is a well of knowledge and is always willing to share her info or secrets.”

“She is a prime example of being a great person and successful ag teacher. I am very proud of her efforts and know she will be an asset for our community of professionals for years.”

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Kolby Schmidt, Chickasha



“Kolby specializes in using real world applications in his lessons and utilizes models and hands-on activities to help his students learn.”

“Kolby works hard at building relationships with community leaders and business owners and always makes sure they are involved in the FFA program.”

“Kolby challenges students to find their passion and helps them determine their academic and career goals. He connects well with students who are not typically agricultural education students and is able to work with them through shop projects or simply building a relationship with common interests with those students.”

STAR Spotlight on Teaching Agriculture

Garrett Bergman, Miami



“Mr. Bergman is a master relationship builder, he treats students with respect and takes time to learn from them, find common ground and is always encouraging them in all they do.”

“Mr. Bergman has implemented several dynamic new programs in his tenure, including grant-funded improvements to ag mechanics equipment, school farm facilities, aquaponics system, iron worker, PlasmaCAM, and a fodder feed stuff production system.”

”Mr. Bergman is a lifelong learner; he enjoys quality professional development and actively seeks those opportunities.”

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Robby Branscum, Stillwater



“Mr. Branscum is extremely dedicated to the classroom and makes every effort to make sure his students are exposed to agricultural education in a fun and engaging way.”

”The diversity of teaching methods and approaches he uses is truly incredible, including bee keeping, ultrasound technology, wooden lawn game fabrication, cheese-making, planting a blackberry patch in the outdoor classroom, and the use of Farmbot technology for a mechanical grow bed.”

“He does whatever it takes to help his students succeed, including staying late at the ag building to work with students, driving across the state and country, and taking care of behind the scenes work that goes along with a successful FFA chapter.”