

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 11, 2016

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Ag in the Classroom creates video series

Oklahoma is a wheat and cattle state. It's also a pecan, pumpkin, cabbage and grape state. Those specialty crops aren't raised in the same abundance as the state's major commodity crops, but they play an important role in human health and the state's economy.

Ag in the Classroom (AITC), a statewide curriculum teaching ag literacy, has created a series of short films that focus on specialty crops. Each two-minute video features an award-winning AITC teacher demonstrating how she uses the AITC lesson plans to teach students about the importance of some of our lesser known crops.

Specialty crop lessons include: A Tough Nut to Crack, Bubbles in the Cabbage Juice, Oklahoma's Berry Best, Pumpkin Pie in a Bag, A Pair of Pears, Good Grapes, Red Dirt Shirts and Veggie Tie Dye. The vignettes are two minutes in length and provide educators with suggestions and ideas to integrate Ag in the Classroom curriculum into their regular classes through these lessons.

The vignettes were filmed in classrooms across the state including Elk City Middle School, Kingfisher Heritage Elementary, Morrison Elementary, Pioneer Pleasant Vale Elementary, Morrison High School, Owasso 6th Grade Center and Moore Oakridge Elementary. This project was a collaboration between Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom and Austin Moore, Oklahoma Horizons and funded by a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant.

The video presenters are outstanding teachers including the current AITC Teacher of the Year and a former AITC Teacher of the Year.

The specialty crop vignettes will debut Monday, Feb. 15 on the AITC website, www.agclassroom.org/ok, or the Oklahoma AITC YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/okagclass.

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Suggested caption for photos: Grapes, cabbages and pecans are a few of the specialty crops featured in a series of seven short videos from Ag in the Classroom, the state's ag literacy program. The videos are available at www.youtube.com/okagclass.