



AGRICULTURE IN MONTANA Schools

Ag in Montana Schools: 2015 Teach or Write Contest

WHO: Grade 7-10 Students

WHAT: Write an essay or teach a class to win cash prizes and a trip to Helena during National Agriculture Week (March) to meet state officials and visit our state capitol. Winners will be honored at an awards luncheon.

WHY: Because agriculture is important to Montana, our nation and the world.

HOW: The choice is yours! The student can write a 200-500 word essay OR the student may choose to teach a short (10-15 minutes) lesson to an elementary class on the designated topic and write a short synopsis of what they did. Rules are as follows. The topic for the 2015 contest is:



Coal and Montana's Agriculture

Suggested ideas include: the history of Montana's coal industry; how mining affects agriculture in ways such as water quality, transportation of goods, etc.; where is coal mined in Montana and how much annually,.....

Rules for Essays:

1. Essays shall be at least 200 words but no more than 500 words.
2. The final page must include a list of information sources as this is considered a research project. Wikipedia will not be accepted as a source, but an interview with an authority would be.
3. Essays will be judged on grammar, information included, originality of thought, neatness, and clarity of expression.
4. Essay winners from previous years may enter again.
5. All essays become the property of AMS and may be reproduced. AMS assumes no responsibility for any of the opinions expressed in any essay.

Rules for Teach-a Lesson:

1. Present a short (10-15 minutes) lesson to an elementary class on the topic listed above. Sources of information may include the AMS teaching manuals.
2. Write a summary of your lesson answering the following questions:
 - A. Describe what you did in teaching your lesson (what you taught, how you did it -- could be something hands-on -- class size, etc).
 - B. Tell what you learned from doing this.
 - C. List any sources of information that you used (at least two are required).
 - D. Have the classroom teacher sign and date that you presented it to the class
3. Lesson will be judged on the summary sheet turned in, originality of the idea selected, neatness of the report, and grammar.

A **COVER PAGE** FOR BOTH THE ESSAY AND THE TEACH-A-LESSON **MUST INCLUDE** THE FOLLOWING:

***STUDENT'S NAME, AGE, GRADE AND SIGNATURE

***NAME OF SCHOOL, SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER, TEACHER'S NAME AND THE COUNTY NAME

Entries must be postmarked by **January 15, 2015** (**PLEASE NOTE** THE NEW TIME OF YEAR FOR DUE DATE!)& mailed to:

Carol Sparks, AMS Workshop Chrmn

406-778-2320

1515 Plevna Rd S

sparks@midrivers.com

Plevna, MT 59344