

# Farmers support AITC by doing what they do best

BY CLAIRE MILLS

**F**armers can help drive support for Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom with every mile they operate their tractors this summer.

Now in its fourth year, the Tractors for Agriculture in the Classroom fundraiser invites farmers to donate money for every hour they spend on a



designated tractor or other piece of equipment between March 1 and Nov. 30. “This event is a fun way for siblings, parents, children or neighbors to be competitive for a good cause—by seeing who can log the most hours

on their farm equipment or who can raise the most money for AITC,” said Morgan Slaven, AITC development associate.

To date, the initiative has raised more than \$10,000 and engaged dozens of farmers across the state in the name of agricultural literacy. Last year, more than \$2,700 was donated through Tractors for AITC. Mecklenburg County Farm Bureau initiated the idea for the campaign in 2014.

This year AITC would like to strengthen the social media presence of the campaign by asking participants to use the hashtag #Tractors4AITC and to tag Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom in posts about the campaign.

To double the impact of contributions, participants are encouraged to ask equipment dealers to match their donations. James River Equipment has been the title sponsor of the pledge campaign since 2016.

Individuals not actively engaged in farming who wish to support the project may make a pledge per mile driven in a truck or other vehicle.

For details and to register, visit [agclassroom.org/va/donors/doc/events/tractors.pdf](http://agclassroom.org/va/donors/doc/events/tractors.pdf).

## Support AITC at these upcoming events

**May 7**

### 22nd Annual AITC Golf Tournament

The Crossings Golf Club, Glen Allen  
800 Virginia Center Parkway  
Online registration at [tinyurl.com/AITCGolf2018](http://tinyurl.com/AITCGolf2018)

Contact Whitney Perkins, 804-290-1034 or [whitney.perkins@vafb.com](mailto:whitney.perkins@vafb.com)

**Oct. 11**

### 3rd Annual AITC Clays Across the Commonwealth

Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays, Mount Crawford

Online registration opens at least six weeks before the event at [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org)

Contact Morgan Slaven, 540-383-7579 or [morgan.slaven@vafb.com](mailto:morgan.slaven@vafb.com)

**Oct. 12**

### 3rd Annual AITC Clays Across the Commonwealth

Kettlefoot Rod & Gun Club, Bristol

Online registration opens at least six weeks before the event at [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org)

Contact Morgan Slaven, 540-383-7579 or [morgan.slaven@vafb.com](mailto:morgan.slaven@vafb.com)

## Newport News educator named AITC Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Massengill, a science and technology teacher at Hampton Roads Academy in Newport News, has been named Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom 2018 Teacher of the Year.

The award recognizes a Virginia educator for incorporating agriculture into his or her core curriculum.

Massengill also was named one of eight national 2018 Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award recipients by the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Farm Credit.

“Jennifer uses her extensive school

garden as the jumping-off point for real-life, hands-on examples to demonstrate required core curriculum such as science, technology and language arts.” said Tammy Maxey, AITC senior education manager.

Massengill’s goal has been to involve each student with the garden. Through science classes, blog groups, afternoon garden club activities and morning cooking classes, those experiences provide meaningful, real-life context to required core curriculum.

As Virginia AITC Teacher of the Year Massengill will receive a scholarship to attend the 2018 National Agriculture



MASSENGILL

in the Classroom Conference in June in Portland, Maine, and a \$500 award. Virginia AITC also recognized two finalists, who will receive registration to the National AITC Conference: Christine Miller of Swift Creek Elementary School in Chesterfield County and Chris Ratliff of McCleary Elementary School in Craig County.