



Florida Agriculture
in the Classroom, Inc.
AGRICULTURE KEEPS
FLORIDA GREEN

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THREE FLORIDA TEACHERS WIN FLORIDA AG IN THE CLASSROOM'S
2009 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ABOUT AGRICULTURE AWARDS**

GAINESVILLE – A North Central Florida elementary school teacher, a St. Augustine middle school teacher of special needs students and a Volusia County middle school agriscience teacher have won Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.'s 2009 Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Awards for their efforts to educate their students about where food, fiber and landscape material come from.

Celia Phipps of C.W. Norton Elementary Gainesville won for the elementary and overall Florida level. Brett Sandler of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine won for the middle school level. In addition, Lisa Bynum of Heritage Middle School in Deltona won for the middle school agri-science level.

They were honored at Florida Agriculture in the Classroom's 2009 State Teacher and Volunteer Workshop "Catching the Wave of Florida Agriculture Education" in Daytona Beach earlier this summer.

"These teachers exemplify what Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is looking for in teachers who strive to teach students about the important role the Florida agriculture industry plays in these students' daily lives," said Vina Jean Banks, Chairman and Florida Beef Council Representative for Florida Agriculture in the Classroom and Director of Agribusiness for the Florida State Fair in Tampa.

As the overall Florida winner, Phipps, a math and science teacher of students in third through fifth grade at C.W. Norton Elementary, competed at the national level for the National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award.

Phipps, Sandler and Bynum received all expenses paid trips to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference "Meet Me in St. Louis" in St. Louis, and the Florida Agriculture in the Classroom's 2009 State Teacher and Volunteer Workshop "Catching the Wave of Florida Agriculture Education" in Daytona Beach in late June.

Phipps won for her efforts to educate students about agriculture by growing commodities in a schoolyard greenhouse paid for with a grant from Florida Agriculture in the Classroom.

Sendler, a teacher for 27 years and teacher of special needs students at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, has used a schoolyard garden to teach his middle school students about horticulture production in Florida.

Bynum, a teacher for 16 years and an agri-science teacher at Heritage Middle School in Deltona, has attracted students to her program by using Florida Agriculture in the Classroom interactive curricula and materials and a schoolyard garden and land laboratory.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is a Gainesville-based, non-profit association charged with educating Florida students and teachers in kindergarten through 12th grade about the importance of the Florida agriculture industry. It is funded by sales of the agriculture specialty license plate also known as the 'Ag Tag.'

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS OF THE TEACHERS,
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