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NDSU **EDUTECH**
education technology services

The Science of Agriculture in the Virtual Classroom

Middle and High School Science Teachers

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture, NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources and EduTech invite you and your students to participate in a collaborative ag-based science project.

Only six classrooms from across North Dakota are invited to participate in this virtual science project! Topics will be determined by participating teachers and agriculture researchers and may include biofuels, food safety, plant sciences, animal pregnancy and nutrition and entomology.

The goal of this project is to bring together high school science classes and agriculture experts for project-based learning experiences both aligned to science curriculum and focused on topics relevant to the agriculture industry.

Project Criteria:

- Participating classes will partner with another classroom with similar content focus and grade level,
 - Project teams will interact and collaborate with field experts using a variety of technology tools aimed at increasing student 21st Century Skills,
 - All participating classes will participate in a final multipoint videoconference event where each team will present their project findings to the whole group, including representatives of the ND Department of Agriculture, NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources and EduTech.
- **Participating classrooms will receive a \$400 stipend** to be used for purchasing resources/supplies associated with the project.
- **Participants will use various technology tools for communication and collaboration** among participants and ag experts. Tools may include h.323 videoconferencing, desktop videoconferencing and other web 2.0 tools such as blogs, twitter, texts, etc.
- **In order to adequately ensure the technical support and use of the tools needed to participate** in this project, all participants are required to submit a signed form from their administrators (see registration form).

To register – please contact Kari Sauer at EduTech by Sept 9, 2009

kari.sauer@sendit.nodak.edu

701.845.7435 or 800.804.8550 (in ND)

Registration is accomplished when completed and signed forms are received by EduTech

Project Activities

Orientation Meeting	<p>Orientation meeting held via videoconference between participating teachers and project partners to discuss project guidelines and begin planning for topics and timeline.</p> <p>Week of September 14 (date tdb decided by participants)</p> <p>3:00 p.m. mountain / 4:00 p.m. central</p>
Project Planning Meeting	<p>Planning meeting held via videoconference between participating teachers and project partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify project topics and classroom partners• Introduce faculty/research experts and participating teachers• Identify project timeline including final multipoint videoconference presentation event
Project Team Activities	<p>Project teams collaborate and interact with partner team and content experts to expand content and develop project. Technology tools can include h.323 videoconferencing, desktop videoconferencing, blogs, email, etc.</p>
Team Project Presentations by Videoconference	<p>Final projects are presented by teams via multipoint videoconference.</p> <p>Invited to participate and engage in discussion with the students are representatives of the ND Department of Agriculture, NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources and EduTech.</p>

Project Partners

Content Experts from College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources at North Dakota State University and the Agriculture Industry

Researchers and representatives from the agriculture industry who participate in this project will serve as real-time content experts for students as they learn about the content and develop their projects. Their expert support to the project will continue as they serve as resources to students and teachers during the virtual conference.

EduTech

EduTech is a statewide organization in North Dakota that provides technical services, support and professional development for K-12 schools. To support this project, EduTech will provide assistance with facilitating the use of videoconferencing by project participants.

North Dakota State University

NDSU's overall role in this project is to coordinate the planning and development of project activities among project partners and to serve as fiscal agent for the grant funds to be distributed through this project.