

American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA)

Program Updates

Unit Badging

- The high school genetics unit is near completion and Achieve has completed an initial review. AFBFA is pleased with the results of that review and will make that report available when units are released.
- This week Achieve will provide an initial review report of their middle school ecosystems unit.
- Achieve is closing in on a release date with final productions close at hand.

NSTA

- The National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) annual conference in Boston is canceled.
- NSTA will continue to provide advertisements in their publications, *The Science Teacher* and *Science Scope* detailing exciting virtual/blended professional development offered this summer.

OTF - On the Farm

- July 7-10, Nashville, TN
- Application closed and participants selected
- This year's event will connect science educators to real-world applications of scientific concepts found in food production agriculture and will feature elements and activities from their storyline units.
- At the moment, this event is moving forward as planned.
- AFBFA is continually monitoring the developing public health crisis and will provide updates on the status of this event as details emerge

Summer Professional Development Workshops

- All in-person summer workshops are canceled for this summer out of an abundance of caution.
- AFBFA is quickly pivoting to deliver the same quality NGSS storyline workshop virtually. The plan is to offer a blended (synchronous/asynchronous), virtual learning experience for free. They are still working on details, but here is some of what this workshop will offer:
 - Global interest launch connecting NGSS, Storylines and real-world applications featuring live virtual demonstrations/interviews with field experts (geneticists, veterinarians, ecologists, etc.)
 - Instructor-led synchronous learning with small group virtual breakout discussions and practice sessions
 - Asynchronous learning modules to enhance practice opportunities and introduce concepts (think flipped classroom)
 - Graduate credits available for purchase through the University of Florida
- More details and a sign-up link to come.

AFBFA is working very hard to bring forth a great experience amid this darkness. We hope participants can engage in learning, and continue to grow as professionals and find some form of normalcy in uncertainty.

Check back often at onthefarmstem.com for updates.