

Oregon Students' Art Celebrated at State Fair

Vernonia student's work selected for calendar

Isabel Ferguson, a fifth grade home school student from Vernonia, was honored during a reception held at the Oregon State Fair in Salem on Sunday, August 26. Isabel's artwork was chosen from over 2,000 submitted to the AITC Calendar Art Contest. The contest celebrates Oregon's many agricultural and natural resource goods, and is sponsored annually by Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (AITC).

This year there were 2,011 entries from across the state of artwork featuring Oregon agriculture and natural resources. The winning art is published in a school-year calendar and distributed statewide. The contest is open to all Oregon public, private, charter, and homeschool students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Since Oregon produces over 220 different commodities, students have a wide variety of subjects from which to choose.

Isabel said, "My artwork is a picture of cherries on a branch. Cherries are one of my favorite fruits, and my inspiration came from when I was looking for Oregon native plants to do a watercolor paint for the calendar. As I was looking through pictures, the one that caught my eye was a picture of cherries on a branch, and I tried to recreate the photo as best as I could."

Isabel also said, "I like cherries, I like the sweet flavor, and the bright color is really pretty."

"The calendar contest is a great

project for teachers and students. It gives them an opportunity to teach and discuss about the bounty and beauty of Oregon agriculture and incorporate art into their classrooms," said Jessica Jansen, AITC Executive Director. Each month in the calendar features one of the winning student's art and each day of the year has a fact about agriculture.

Besides having their artwork published in the calendar, each winning student received a \$50 award and certificate. The artwork of all 13 winners was on display during the Oregon State Fair. Calendars are free to Oregon teachers, and can be ordered



Isabel Ferguson's winning artwork in the Oregon AITC Calendar Art Contest featured cherries and will be the image for the month of May.

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About Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom: Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (AITC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping students grow in their knowledge of Oregon's agriculture, environment, and natural resources. AITC provides free educational lessons, activities, and resource materials to Oregon educators to support the integration of agricultural themes into academic subjects such as math, science, history, and language arts. For more information visit the AITC website at www.oregonaitc.org.



Isabel Ferguson was honored at a reception for AITC Calendar Art Contest winners. Pictured with Isabel are AITC Board of Director Tammy Dennee and Executive Director Jessica Jansen.

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