

Students can win cash prizes by writing an agricultural essay

The Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation is launching its third annual statewide essay contest.

All interested Oregon high school students are invited to participate and entrants will compete on the basis of how

persuasively their writing communicates the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

The Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom program is a non-profit organization headquartered at Oregon State University. The group's 2007 essay

contest is sponsored by the Capital Press, Oregon Farm Bureau, Agri-Business Council of Oregon and Dairy Farmers of Oregon.

For the list of essay topics and contest rules see the program's website at <http://AITC.oregonstate.edu>. Mail entries, postmarked by March 1, to Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, Oregon State University, 105 Ballard Extension Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331.

"The goals of this statewide writing contest are to create a positive learning experience by encouraging students to read

more, be creative, and expand their vocabularies; and to further general understanding of agriculture in our lives," said program director Tami Kerr.

According to Kerr, the contest was designed to be easily incorporated into CIM/CAM requirements and will give maximum recognition to all students and their teachers who take part. Participation certificates will be awarded to all students who submit essays.

Judges will select the top three entries in four divisions (grades 9, 10, 11 and 12). Students with winning essays will

receive cash awards ranging from \$50 to \$100 as well as Dairy Farmers of Oregon "Got Milk" sweatshirts. Winning essays will be published in the Capital Press newspaper. Teachers of student winners will receive plaques to display in their schools.

"Food and fiber, produced by today's farmers, are essential to everyday life," Kerr said. "It is important that the public understand the industry and how relevant it is to their lives. More than 15 percent of the U.S. population is employed in farm or farm-related jobs."

Rx discount cards available now

United Way of Columbia County has received 3,000 free FamilyWise prescription drug discount cards. They will soon be available at Sacagawea Health Center, Senior Advocates, Community Action Team, Turning Point Community Services, H.O.P.E., Inc., Vernonia Cares, or by calling United Way of Columbia County at 503-556-3614. Most pharmacies accept these prescription drug discount cards. They have no usage limits, age requirements or registration forms.

"Too many American families have insufficient or no prescription drug coverage at all," said Kathy Beck, Director of United Way of Columbia County. "The FamilyWise discount

prescription drug cards will help families who otherwise could not afford much needed prescription drugs."

The cards are being distributed free by United Way of Columbia County, and 270 other United Way agencies around the country in 47 states, as part of a \$50 million national, in-kind donation of discount prescription cards coordinated by Membership Services Corporation, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and its industry partners.

Additional information is available at United Way of Columbia County at 503-556-3614 or online at www.unitedwayofcolumbiacounty.org where there is a link to the Familywise site.

Tax credits can help families with cost of child care

With tax season once again upon us, the Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network has launched an aggressive outreach campaign to ensure that more eligible families know about valuable state and federal child-related income tax credits.

"You earned it...so claim it!" is the statewide campaign of the Network's members, child

care resource and referral programs that help families find and choose child care. The campaign is carried out in collaboration with the National Women's Law Center of Washington, D.C., and several states.

"In our work with families in every county, we see many families struggling with the costs of child care and running a household," said Mary Nem-

mers, executive director of the Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network. "We want to make sure that every eligible family knows these tax credits are available to help make child care more affordable."

According to the most recent State of Oregon data, the average cost of child care for a toddler in a family child care home

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Many earn place on Vernonia High School 2nd quarter Honor Roll

The following students were named to the Vernonia High School academic Honor Roll for the 2006-2007 second quarter. Grade Point Averages (GPA) are on a scale of 1-4, with 4 equaling a perfect score.

Principal's Honors, 4.00 – Timothy Brown, Mackenzie

Carr, Adrienne East, Celia Gendron, Kelsey King, Brittney Lindauer, Souvanny Miller, Brittanie Roberts, Melissa Sandstrom, and Katie Wilson.

High Honors, 3.50-3.99 – Heather Bassett, Michael Calhoun, Ashley Cavett, Karly DeWitt, Ashley Eastlick, Megan

Farmer, Fabian Funke, Yolande Gendron, Brandon Gilbertson, Megan Hieronimus, Luke Johnston, Keli Krieger, Joreigh Landers, Samantha Lee, Alex Lende, Tricia Levenseller, Breonna Maldonado, Ashley Paleck, Phillip Peerson, Megan Perry, Theresa Schuster, Amanda Sliger, Dalton Stevens, Joshua Vanderzanden, Ashton Yontz, Nicholas Young and Rebekah Young.

Honors, 3.25-3.49 – Bethany Angle, Christopher Bamburg, Nathan Bonora, Gillian Cheney,

Marissa Clement, Tyler Clines, Sarah Dupree, Casandra Gunter, Kevin Johnston, Brittny Lason-Dyer, Jessie Long, Nicole Moss, Rebekah Peerson, Tim Prpich, Amy Rethwill, John Richardson-Fitch, Preston Roach, Danielle Robb, Gavin Roberts, Sierra Roberts, Byron Schorzman, Kemberlia Sebring, Lindsay Shaw, and Dylan Vaughn.

Honorable Mention, 3.00-3.24 – Amber Abney, Kahli Anderson, Bonnie Birkmaier, Nicole Bridge, Eric Budge,

Stephanie Carr, Alexandria Chadek, Kaylee Dalebroux, Amber Eastlick, Nicole Frantz, Jacob Hales, Calie Johnston, Ralee Lanphear, Dalan Lee, Jeramey Lende, Wesley Lubbes, Nicole Mitchell, Brittney Paden, Tabitha Schivley, Zachary Serafin, Christina Sohler, Emily Thompson, Levi Timmerman, and Nandi VanMeter.

VMS Honor Roll

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Honors, 3.25-3.49 – Matthew Bevans, Jacob Bringman, Rachel Brown, Austin Cutright, Kodi Dyer, Ethan Johnston, Sarah Miller, Mykala Morgan, Daniel Shaw, Kelly Smith, McKenzie Tarkalson, and Levi Taylor.

Honorable Mention, 3.00-3.24 – Ashlee Archer, David Bridge, Brianna Carr, Holly Cavett, Sarah Dahl, Robin Elliott, Tabitha Fallau, Nathan Fleck, Kristina Halvorson, Jerriid Johnston, Jacob Levenseller, Timothy Martinez, Mikol Pihl, Amanda Sebring, Sean Solberg, Kacy Strand, Chantel Szlavich, and Nicole Thompson.



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