

# SCSB Final Report

## General Information

**Principal Investigator(s) Name(s):** Tracy Miskelly

**Organization:** SC Ag in the Classroom

**Date:** January 4, 2019

## Proposal Information

**Title:** SC Ag in the Classroom Summer Teacher Institute

**Amount Expended to Date:** \$2500.00

## Project Summary

The Ag in the Classroom Summer Teacher Institute shows teachers how Ag in the Classroom lesson plans and materials can help them reach students of all learning styles. The Institute is designed for South Carolina Pre-K through 12th grade classroom teachers who hold a current teaching assignment. Participants earn three professional development graduate credits when they complete all course requirements.

At this year's Institute, participants heard from a variety of speakers, including Laura Lester, Executive Director of the SC Soybean Board. Participants also toured the area with stops at SC Inland Port, the Pee Dee Research and Education Center, and SCSB member Cullen Bryant's operation. During the workshop portion of the Institute, participants received materials for various lesson plans that would enable them to implement agriculture in their classrooms immediately. Topics of those lessons included sourcing everyday products back to the farm, pollinators, life cycles of plants using soybeans, and more.

The South Carolina Soybean Board was recognized on all printed materials for Ag in the Classroom Institute as well as recognized in *SC Farmer* magazine as a sponsor. *SC Farmer* has readership of approximately 104,000 statewide.

## Key Performance Indicators

Teachers were assessed before and after the Summer Teacher Institute using a survey. Results are attached. Some highlights include a 75% decrease in participant concerns of GMOs and a 90% decrease in participant belief that 'organic' products are healthier.

## Next Steps

Next steps are already in place as Summer Teacher Institute 2019 is currently being planned for June 10-14 at the Hilton Columbia Center.

Past participants receive emails periodically with new Ag in the Classroom information. For example, Ag in the Classroom has a new literacy outreach program titled Book of the Month

and participants were notified. Another goal of Ag in the Classroom is to offer a “part two” of Teacher Institute to past participants.

**Additional Information**

SC Ag in the Classroom Summer Teacher Institute has reached over 5,000 teachers in its 19 years of operation, which translates to approximately 125,000 students!

Prior to submission, reports should be saved as a pdf document using the following naming convention; 2019Date(yrmoday)\_(PI Last Name)\_(Abbreviated Proposal Title)\_Final.

# Ag in the Classroom Summer Teacher Institute Survey: Before & After

50 teachers were asked the following questions upon arrival at the Institute and again after the week-long training.

**B** = Before    **A** = After



1. How concerned are you with GMOs?



2. How much influence do food labels have in making your buying decisions? (ex: organic, grass-fed, natural)



3. Are products labeled "organic" healthier for you?



4. How concerned are you with the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture?



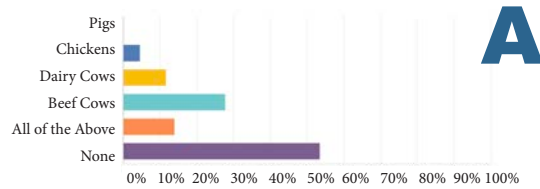
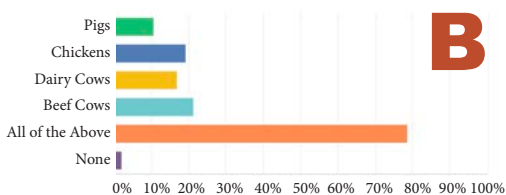
5. Is the agriculture industry the #1 water user in South Carolina?



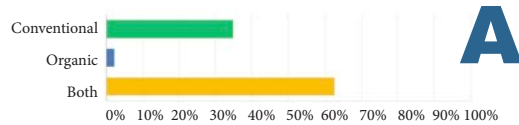
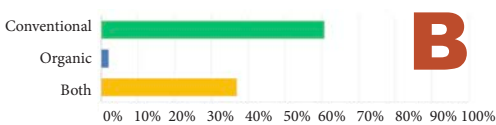
6. Do you support the use of technology in agriculture?



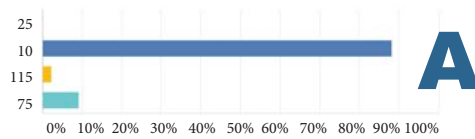
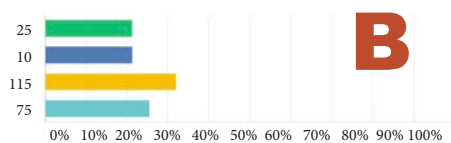
7. Which livestock productions allow the use of hormones?



8. Pesticides can be used in the following farming practices:



9. How many GMO products are currently available on the market?



10. What percentage of US farms, no matter the size, are family owned and operated?

