



Future of Agriculture Curriculum for Teaching Sustainability

Dear Student:

You are invited to participate in the *Future of Agriculture Curriculum for Teaching Sustainability Project* undertaken by teachers and students at Michigan State University. As part of the research project, you will be asked to participate in agriscience assessments and your answers may be shared with researchers. Your teacher may also share other information about you, such as scores you've received on other assessments, and copies of your classroom work. The researchers may videotape parts of your class and the researchers may want to interview you. If you participate in an interview, it will happen during regular school hours and will take about 30 minutes. If the interview happens before or after school, you will receive a gift card or cash.

Your participation in this study will help teachers learn about effective ways to teaching science. This will provide benefits to many students and teachers beyond those directly participating in the project. You may benefit from participating in this project by having the opportunity to have your ideas recognized and valued by others.

Your teacher will not use the researchers' findings to give you grades. You will not receive any extra credit if you choose to participate in the study, and you will not lose credit if you choose not to participate in the study.

There are minimal risks involved in participating. Your confidentiality will be protected so that no one who sees your work will know your real name. We will use a pseudonym (fake name) or number ID to disguise your real name. If you do not want to be videotaped or audio recorded, we will not include you in the recordings. The audio and videotapes will be used only by the researchers and kept in a secure location at the researchers' office.

Your participation in this project is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw your participation or refuse to share your answers with to any questions on the assessments with researchers without penalty. Your refusal to participate or decision of discontinuing the participation will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Your confidentiality will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. The data will be stored in locked filing cabinets at 319A Erickson Hall, East Lansing, MI or on secure servers at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO for at least 3 years after the closes. The project investigators will have access to the data for research purposes. At Michigan State University, an Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews all research studies that involve human subjects before the research can be started. Their mission is to protect the rights of research participants. IRB will have access to the research data and results.

If you have concerns or questions about this study, such as scientific issues, how to do any part of it, or to report an injury (i.e. physical, psychological, social, financial, or otherwise), please contact Craig Kohn, 620 Farm Lane, Rm 313, East Lansing, MI 48824, kohncrai@msu.edu, or the principal investigator: Dr. Charles W. (Andy) Anderson, 319A Erickson Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI 48824, (517) 432-4648, andya@msu.edu.

Your initials give voluntary permission for your students to participate in the activities you have indicated below (PLEASE INITIAL EACH LINE YOU APPROVE):

- _____ The researchers may observe you during agriscience class, using notes to keep track of interactions.
- _____ The researchers may audio and/or videotape agriscience lessons.
- _____ The researchers may interview you about your learning in agriscience class. This will take place at a time that is judged educationally sound by the teacher. Interviews will be approximately 30 minutes long and be audio or video-recorded. If interviews are arranged with you either before or after school, you will be compensated with a gift card.
- _____ The researchers may keep copies of your written work in agriscience (including pre- and post-assessments and classroom work). These documents will be held in confidence. Any examples of your work that appear in any publication will have your identity disguised.

If you agree to participate in this research project, please print and sign your name below.

I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Print Name _____

Sign Name _____

Date: _____



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