



Future of Agriculture Curriculum for Teaching Sustainability

Dear Teacher:

You are invited to participate in the *Future of Agriculture Curriculum for Teaching Sustainability Project*—a project that aims to measure the rate of adoption of sustainable knowledge and practice among students as a result of participation in classroom and community-based learning opportunities. It involves giving your students pre- and post-assessments, using curriculum materials designed by researchers, sharing copies of student work, sharing other information about students (such as standardized test scores), and audio or video taping your instruction or interviews with you or your students. The researchers may also observe and take notes during your class instruction.

The researchers may also ask you questions that will help them understand your teaching practices through questionnaires or interviews, including questions about your understanding of the agriscience content you are teaching, the lessons you taught and your approaches to teaching those lessons, your evaluations of teaching materials and professional development activities and people in your professional networks and how you work with them.

The data collected in this study will allow researchers an opportunity to explore the effectiveness of curriculum materials and how students adopt sustainable knowledge and practice. Participation in this study will help researchers and teachers develop better curriculum materials and instructional methods. This will provide benefit to many students and teachers beyond those directly participating in the project. Additionally, participation in this study allows you to interact with teacher education faculty and graduate students around your teaching and provides you with a valuable professional development opportunity.

There are minimal risks associated with this study. However, you may be visible and identifiable in audio or videotapes. If you choose to have your participation in this project remain confidential, every effort will be made to protect the confidentiality of information about you, for example, by keeping materials in secure locations only accessible by researchers and Institutional Review Board members and using pseudonyms and disguising personal identifiers in any written reports, publications, and presentations. Your confidentiality will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. You may also choose to be acknowledged by name as a contributor to this project, and in that way you may waive your right to confidentiality. You are not required to be acknowledged as a contributor, and thus are not required to waive your confidentiality rights.

Participation time will vary, but may be as much as 40 hours across a school year. You will be compensated for your time spent on this project outside your regular teaching responsibility. You may discontinue your participation in this project at any time during the project period (June 2019- June 2020) without penalty. Participation is voluntary; you may choose not to participate at all, or you may refuse to participate in certain procedures or answer certain questions or discontinue your participation at any time without consequence. Your refusal to participate or decision of discontinuing the participation will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

The data from this study may be used in reports, articles, presentations, and in teacher education classes. Some data may be used in teacher support materials for units designed for the FACTS Project. You have the right to read prior to publication any reports that describe you to assure that your identity is adequately disguised or acknowledged (according to your choice). You have the right to review any materials that describe you or recordings of you before they are used in written reports or presentations. After this review, you may deny permission to use those materials.

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 and on secure servers at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO for at least 3 years after project 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 Dr. Charles W. (Andy) Anderson, 319A Erickson Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI 48824, (517) 432-4648, andya@msu.edu.

If you have questions or concerns about your role and rights as a research participant, would like to obtain information or offer input, or would like to register a complaint about this study, you may contact, anonymously if you wish, the Michigan State University's Human Research Protection Program at 517-355-2180, Fax 517-432-4503, or e-mail irb@msu.edu or regular mail at 4000 Collins Rd, Suite 136, Lansing, MI 48910.

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

- _____ The researchers may observe your students during agriscience class, using notes to keep track of interactions.
- _____ The researchers may audio and/or videotape agriscience lessons or may ask you to do so.
- _____ The researchers may or ask you to interview the students about their learning in agriscience class or may ask you to do so. 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 the student either before or after school, the student will be compensated with a gift card or cash.
- _____ The researchers may keep copies of the students' written work in agriscience (including pre- and post-assessments and classroom work). These documents will be held in confidence. Any examples of the students' work that appear in any publication will have the students' identity disguised.
- _____ The researchers may ask you questions about your agriscience teaching practices through questionnaires or interviews, including questions about your understanding of the agriscience content you are teaching, the lessons you taught and your approaches to teaching those lessons, and your evaluations of teaching materials and professional development activities.

Your signature below means that you voluntarily agree to participate in this research study.

Teacher's consent _____ Date _____



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