

Newspaper in Education Presents  
**inquizi** **kidz**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE COUNTY'S MAGNET SCHOOLS & ADULT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

How do  
**Agriculture**  
 and **Technology**  
 fit together?

**kidzbiz**

**Agriculture's in his blood**

**J**ames Loggins may only be in 7th grade but he realizes that he has a love for agriculture. James looks forward to his agriculture class and participation in the National FFA organization. He is an active member of FFA where he is currently raising a steer that they will be able to show in competition. James may only be in 7th grade,

but he already can tell you about interesting new careers in agriculture. Some of his favorites are ornamental horticulture, where you show plants for beauty, and suburban farming where you learn about small areas of farming. He is looking forward to exploring aquaculture in Mr. Baggett's class. In addition, James has learned about good old fashioned lawn mowing and taking care of animals. Currently the class is working on a garden that needs their help. They are replanting and learning about horticulture. "This has been one of my favorite years and I look forward to continuing my interest in agriculture at Lakewood Ranch High." James Loggins

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**school biz**

**AG teacher gets back to basics**

**A**dam Baggett, a young new agriculture teacher in the Manatee County School District, has been setting his goals high. Adam is a recent graduate of Liberty University located in Lynchburg Virginia.

Upon leaving school Adam knew he wanted to help students and has always had a love for animals and the outdoors. Teaching agriculture seemed like a natural fit. He is the advisor for the National FFA organization at **Haile middle school**. Formerly known as Future Farmers of America, FFA is 68 members strong this year. 75 percent of these students are actively involved in daily and weekly activities. This year they will be showing animals at the FFA Competition. FFA helps them learn not only about agriculture but about leadership and communications skills. Adam wants to get back to the basics and teach kids the way things used to be. "I want students to leave Haile Middle School and realize there is more to agriculture than just farming, cattle and tomatoes. I want them to know those are important, but there are many new agriculture careers and opportunities." He hopes to continue to build support for his program and for FFA.



Adam Baggett

**InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in the Bradenton Herald-East Manatee Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, John Waltz, Manager (941) 748-0411 ext. 5031 Darren Falterman, Digital Media Specialist © Knight-Ridder Productions, inc.**

- Ballard Elementary Magnet
- Daughtrey Preporatory Magnet
- Harllee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Haile Middle School
- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

*Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDz*

Next Weeks Inquizikidz - "How do Agriculture and Technology fit together?"

Science and Agriculture

**Science of cultivation**

**A**griculture and Natural Resources is the science or art of cultivating the soil, harvesting crops, and raising livestock. It is the production of plants and animals useful to man and in varying degrees the preparation of these products for man's use. Over the years, science and technology have brought about a vast change in the agricultural industry. Through biotechnology and the desire to improve efficiency and environmental conditions many careers now exist that intertwine agriculture and science.

A *Poultry Scientist* is someone who owns or manages a poultry farm. Some do research on breeding and disease resistance and others teach or work as extension agents. Some are also involved in communications and marketing.

The *Cereal Scientist* is one of several careers involved in improving the quality of our food supply. They study the composition, structure and properties of cereal in order to create new cereal varieties with disease resistance and higher yields.

The *Soil Scientist* explores the physical, biological, chemical and mineralogical composition of soils to determine the best use for soil in a particular area and gives advice on maximizing productivity for plants grown in the soil.

An *Agricultural Economist* studies crops, supply, demand, distribution, weather, prices and other factors. In this way they can help companies, universities, government agencies and agricultural producers to better understand markets and make informed decisions.

The *Entomologist* studies the life cycles of bugs and develops ways to control excess or destructive insect population, or use desirable insects to agriculture's advantage.

A *Biotechnologist* uses cells and their component parts to create new agricultural, pharmaceutical and environmental products that benefit society. They can alter the genetic information in plants and animals to improve quality, disease resistance and other characteristics.

The *Limnologist* preserves and protects our waterways by studying the chemical composition of water, amount of light that penetrates water, outside environmental factors and the organisms living there.



**explore it pt 2**

Are there different amounts of iron in different breakfast cereals? The iron in ready-to-eat breakfast cereals is in the form called elemental, not in combination with any other chemical compound. Iron is sprayed on the outside of cereal flakes. You can separate the iron with a strong magnet.

Procedure:

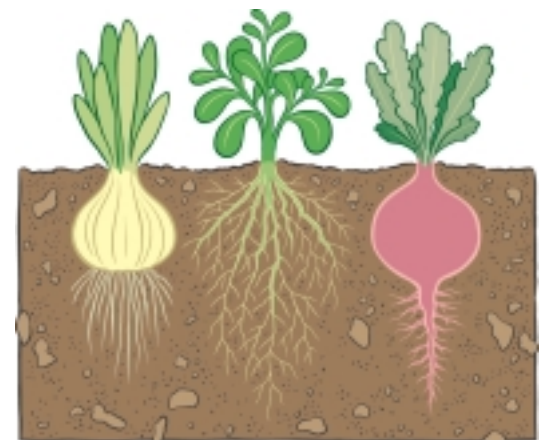
You'll need a fairly sensitive scale for this procedure. A bathroom scale won't cut it! Crush 1/2 cup of cereal in a baggie, until the flakes are half their original size. Pour into a bowl.

Add 1 cup of hot water and mix with a wooden spoon.

Get a strong, 3-inch bar magnet that is not grey or black (so the iron filings will show up). Don't use a horseshoe magnet.

Put the magnet into the cereal mix and stir gently in a circle for a fixed amount of time, say 5 minutes. Try not to bump the bottom or sides of the bowl.

Take out the magnet. Remove the iron filings that it pulled from the cereal, and weigh them on a laboratory scale.



**explore it pt 1**

What happens to the way plants grow if there are no microorganisms in the soil?

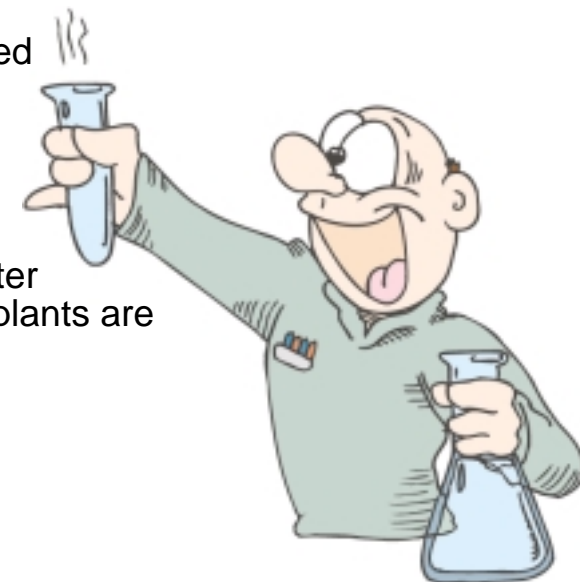
Take a sample of fertile soil from a field or garden and divide it into two portions.

Bake one in an oven (to destroy the microorganisms).

Leave the other portion alone as a control.

- Fill two Styrofoam cups about half way, one with the baked soil and one with the control soil.
- Plant 3-4 seeds in each cup and cover with soil until the cups are about 3/4 full.
- Make sure both plants receive the same amounts of water and light, and are kept at the same temperature while the plants are growing.

How do the plants differ as they grow?



**webwize**



[www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids](http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids) - agriculture science for kids

[www.usda.gov/news/usdakids/index.html](http://www.usda.gov/news/usdakids/index.html) - USDA for kids

[www.usda.gov/nass/nasskids/nasskids.htm](http://www.usda.gov/nass/nasskids/nasskids.htm) - USDA - Nass kids