

Synopsis of the USDA Future Scientists Program:

Teacher receives:

- Intel digital microscope to keep
- 20 hours Continuing Professional Education credit through Texas A&M (transferable)
- Dr. Wilson to teach the participant's classes for a day in their school
- Meals/snacks/drinks during summer institute

10-20 Science Teachers are selected who are committed to introducing their students to the science of and employment opportunities available to them in Agriculture and who will make use of the USDA/ARS lab in Parlier,

There are two foci of the program:

- The first is to spend about half of the time helping the teachers to learn about the life cycle of the corn earworm (*Helicoverpa zea*) through lecture and hands-on work in the lab and field before they are shown how to grow the insect in the classroom and how to conduct simple experiments.
- The other half of each institute is devoted to exposing the teachers to the work of some of the research units at the San Joaquin Agricultural Sciences Center (SJVASC) in Parlier, CA.

School visits by Program Director:

During the school year, Dr. Wilson visits each participating school and makes a general presentation to a large group of students or teaches the class schedule of the teacher in the Future Scientists Program.

Student Research Presentation Days

The Student Research Presentation Day is the culmination of the student and teachers' year-long involvement in the project. It is held at a mutually agreeable day at the end of the school year (May 2018).

Each teacher selects four or five students to present the work of the teacher's various classes on the project. Parents are encouraged to attend and many make the effort to accompany their child. Event held at the USDA/ARS/SJVASC Parlier, CA.

Worms: supplied free to schools from ARS insect unit in Stoneville, MS