

Agriculture in the classroom

teachers — perhaps 30 teachers immersed in agriculture for one week,' Suzanne said.

A conference once a year to exchange ideas and coordinate efforts between the various groups involved in AITC is something else Suzanne would like to see. She feels the various groups within agriculture should put aside any differences and work together on the Agriculture in the Classroom program. "This isn't something we need to compete in. These are issues that effect everyone," she commented.

Suzanne and Jean are both involved in the Association for Food and Agricultural Awareness in Middlesex. This is a non-profit organization, made up of groups who want to promote agricultural awareness such as the Federation of Agriculture, Junior Farmers and the Farm Safety Association. One of the association's objectives is to develop ongoing AITC programs.

Although Jean and Suzanne are wives and mothers and hold off-farm jobs, they still have time for AITC — just like

several other women who make up the core AITC group. What are the rewards? "I enjoy seeing the expressions on the children's faces. They want to know as much as they can about farming. This is our industry and we want people to understand it," said Jean. "We want to make sure that agriculture is thriving for our children when it comes time for them to be farming, and increasing awareness is one way of doing that."

Provincial Agriculture in the Classroom Conference



Representatives from agriculture, education and business met for an Ontario Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Conference in late January. Much of the conference centered on the discussion of the AITC program in this province and where it is going. Two recommendations emerged — that there should be a steering committee for AITC made up of representatives from agriculture, education and business, and that a clearinghouse for all AITC resources be established.