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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AGRICULTURE-RELATED CLASSROOM PROJECTS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO RECEIVE CHS FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDING

Students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade will learn their reading, writing, math, science and social studies lessons through agricultural-related activities thanks to 15, $500 grants awarded by the CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO).

The fifteen selected projects include a living land laboratory where students from all the schools in a Georgia county will learn about forestry, beef and other agricultural commodities; a mobile education trailer that visits Iowa schools throughout the county to teach students about important agricultural issues; and a hydroponics project at a Virginia elementary school that will help feed nearby hungry populations, among other projects. These projects were selected for funding from 118 grant applications submitted.

"Funding projects that help drive home the importance of agriculture to students in their daily lives is what the CHS Foundation Classroom Grant program is all about," said Will Fett, president of NAITCO and executive director of Iowa Foundation for Agriculture Literacy (IALF). "We appreciate the funding we receive from the CHS Foundation to offer our teachers this opportunity."

"The CHS Foundation is committed to developing ag leaders for lifelong success," said Nanci Lilja, CHS Foundation president. "The projects supported through Classroom Grants introduce agriculture concepts to students at a young age, so they can explore and experience all agriculture has to offer."

The projects funded will reach pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students from all over the country and they will cover a variety of subjects. The projects selected for funding are:

- **Arkansas** (Marion) – Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet School's *HCGC TEAM Chicken Learning Center* will help students in kindergarten through sixth grade learn environmental, agricultural, economic and social literacy lessons by rearing chickens in a school chicken coop and selling eggs back to the community.
- **Florida** (Jacksonville) – Christ the King's Catholic School's *Nutrition, Food, and Agriculture Unit, First Grade* will help first graders understand the importance of good nutrition to animals and humans, organism structure and function of plants and animals, and growth and development of plants and animals using a schoolyard chicken coop and garden.
- **Florida** (Palm Coast) – Flagler Palm Coast High School's *Importance of Pollinators in Every Day Life* will help students in ninth through 12th grade establish a pollinator garden on school grounds to help pollinate the fruit and vegetable crops grown in nearby raised beds and hydroponics growing systems.
- **Georgia** (Hamilton) – Harris County High School's *Harris County Ag STEAM Farm Vermiculture Lab* will let all pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students in the county learn about the processes involved in growing food at a 50-acre land laboratory at the school.

- **Iowa** (DeWitt) – Central DeWitt High School's *Agricultural Education Trailer* will travel to schools and community events to educate students and the public about important agricultural issues such as confusing terms used in food labeling, agricultural careers, what farmers do and where food comes from.
- **Iowa** (Council Bluffs) – Saint Albert High School's *Saint Albert Hydroponics System* will allow ninth through 12th grade students to design their own indoor hydroponics growing systems and compete against each other for the best design in their living science classroom. The winning design will be built for the entire classroom to use.
- **Kentucky** (Auburn) – Auburn Elementary School's *Aeroponic Tower Gardening* project will provide third, fourth and fifth graders with an indoor growing system that will teach them the importance of plants, the structures that support plant survival and how the environment impacts plant growth.
- **Michigan** (Benton Harbor) – Countryside Academy's *Wonderful World of Worms* will educate pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students about the importance of soil and amending it to produce food to support a greenhouse currently being built at the school.
- **Minnesota** (Fergus Fall) – Fergus Fall Public Schools' *Reproduction* will use three-dimensional models of animal reproductive systems to teach ninth through 12th grade students about reproduction techniques, embryo fertilization, fetal development and traits of parents as part of a veterinary science course.
- **Montana** (Big Sandy) – Big Sandy High School's *Artificial Insemination* project will allow 12th graders to learn about the reproductive process involved in breeding beef cattle.
- **New Jersey** (Roebling)– Roebling School's *A World Within* will use classroom terrariums, one per pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade classroom, so students can learn year-round about the Earth's water cycle, the life cycle of plants, soil composition, living versus non-living things and decomposition.
- **Oklahoma** (Frederick) – Frederick Elementary School's *Economical Tower Garden* will allow students to design and build inexpensive tower gardens to grow vegetables as part of their monthly STEM day.
- **Utah** (Erda) – Excelsior Academy's *Pollinator Science Garden* will help students in sixth through eighth grade develop a pollinator garden to complement and pollinate nearby fruit and vegetable school gardens.
- **Virginia** (Carrollton) – Carrollton Elementary School's *Homegrown Hydroponics Helping Hunger* is a problem-based learning project in which students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade will learn about where food comes from and how to feed hungry people in their community to help reach one of the United Nation's sustainability goals of ending hunger.
- **Wisconsin** (Thorp) – Thorp High School's *Mixing It Up with Microgreens* will help students in ninth through 12th grade produce a crop quickly to supply the school cafeteria and local restaurants with microgreens and learn the strategies involved in producing and marketing a crop.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization made up of Agriculture in the Classroom programs in 50 states including the District of Columbia and six territories. Its mission is to educate teachers and students in kindergarten through 12th grade about the importance of agriculture by incorporating agricultural concepts into classroom instruction. To learn more about NAITCO, please visit www.agclassroom.org.

The CHS Foundation is funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperative and a global energy, grains and foods company. The CHS Foundation is focused on developing a new generation of agriculture leaders. It is achieving its goals through these strategic initiatives: advancing innovation in cooperative education, cultivating opportunity through university partnerships, growing high-impact youth leadership programs and accelerating potential for careers in ag. Together with our signature partners, we develop ag leaders for life. For more information on our programs go to chsfoundation.org.

FOR THE NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE TEACHERS WHOSE PROJECTS RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING, CONTACT LISA GASKALLA BY CALLING (352) 745-0246 OR EMAILING lisa.gaskalla@naitco.org