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

Thanks to the CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO), 20 classroom teachers across the country will receive \$500 grants to increase agricultural literacy within their classrooms. Students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade will learn reading, writing, math, science and social studies content and skills through agricultural-related lessons and activities.

The 20 projects selected for funding include a variety of creative and engaging projects from schools across the nation focused on providing their students with the opportunity to be a part of the agricultural production process and apply classroom learning in real-life applications. These projects were selected for funding from 125 submitted grant applications.

“The funding provided by the CHS Foundation empowers educators with the resources and tools to take their ideas of agriculture literacy engagement and make them a reality,” said Katie Carpenter, president of NAITCO and Director of New York Agriculture in the Classroom. “With their grant funding, teachers will create authentic learning experiences through agriculture while helping students meet their core academic goals.”

“The CHS Foundation is dedicated to supporting educators and students of all ages,” said Nanci Lilja, CHS Foundation president. “These Classroom Grant projects allow students to explore agriculture through a variety of concepts and experiences, seeing firsthand all agriculture encompasses.”

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

- **Alaska** (Palmer) – Academy Charter School’s *2nd Grade Greenhouse and Honey* project will allow 2nd grade students and their families the opportunity to experience producing and processing fruits, vegetables, and honey in their community garden.
- **Alabama** (Hamilton) – Hamilton Elementary’s *Going Green(house)!* project will provide K-4 students a seed to table experience through the use of seed starter kits which will increase the sustainability of their school gardens developed in conjunction with their SNAP-Ed educator.
- **Georgia** (Loganville) – Sharon Elementary School’s *JAGriculture Club-Let’s Grow Together* project will support the efforts of the after-school club in extending the learning from their agriculture classroom to the wider school population and lay the foundation for teaching life-long lessons students can use in and outside the classroom.
- **Iowa** (New Hampton) – New Hampton Community School’s *Baking I Class: Baking Basics* project provide necessary small equipment and tools to enable students to discover the science behind the foods they prepare while gaining real-world experience in entrepreneurship as they work towards marketing and selling their products.

- **Illinois** (Cambridge) – Cambridge School District’s *Traveling Classroom Garden* project will support the creation of a traveling classroom garden that will allow high school students to showcase plant science principals to all grades within the district.
- **Kansas** (Haven) – Yoder Charter School’s *Learning Habitats & Ecosystems with Vermicomposting* project will establish a vermicomposting program to allow students to learn about sustainability and agriculture while instilling core values of responsibility and work ethic as they create, maintain, and study a living ecosystem.
- **Kansas** (Haven) – Yoder Charter School’s *School Yard Eggs* project will support the development of an egg producing operation within the school providing students with a real-world project where they can apply math and science concepts from their classroom learning.
- **Kentucky** (Leitchfield) – St. Paul Catholic Elementary’s *St. Paul Littler Learning Garden* project will establish a school garden to connect students to the source of their food and encourage healthy eating through ownership of growing their food.
- **Louisiana** (Kenner) – Kenner Discovery Health and Sciences Academy’s *Gardening Gets Greener* project will support student exploration of STEM careers as they work to design, engineer, and maintain a vertical gardening system while increasing student understanding of why the future of their food is crucial to their health.
- **Massachusetts** (Ashland) – Ashland Preschool’s *Ashland Preschool Schoolyard Garden* project will create a schoolyard garden where students ages 3-6 can have a hands-on gardening experience allowing for the discovery of different plants and exploration of their growth
- **Michigan** (Coopersville) – Coopersville High School’s *Shoe-box Hydroponics* project will introduce students to hydroponic growing while learning about plant propagation and growth through the construction, management and harvesting of crops from their shoe-box hydroponic systems.
- **Minnesota** (Goodhue) – Goodhue Public School’s *Minnesota Wildlife Class-Fishing Pole* project will allow for the purchase of equipment necessary for students to construct fishing poles to aid in their learning about natural resources and Minnesota waterways and the connection to the agricultural industry.
- **Missouri** (Boonville) – Hannah Cole Primary’s *Place Based Learning* project will aid in creating an outdoor classroom where students can work alongside community members to explore various aspects of agriculture in action.
- **Missouri** (Park Hills) – Central Middle School’s *Agriculture Outside* project will enable the student-led vision and design of an outdoor classroom, filled with native flower beds to attract pollinators and herb and vegetable garden for food production, to come to fruition as the students employ STEM concepts from the classroom into real-life scenarios.
- **North Dakota** (Fargo) Longfellow’s *3D Hydroponic System* project will allow 5th grade students to explore foundational engineering and design principals as they create hydroponic growing systems that will enable them to investigate plant needs through a different lens.
- **Nebraska** (Gibbon) – Gibbon Public Schools’ *Flavors & Foliage-An International Greenhouse* project will offer Spanish IV students an opportunity to utilize their Spanish reading, writing, and speaking skills as they research, plan, grow, harvest, and prepare authentic recipes from Spanish-speaking countries in their newly constructed school greenhouse to share with their community.
- **New Hampshire** (Monroe) – Monroe Consolidated School’s *Farm to Table* project will provide an incubator, brooder, and other essential materials to develop a project-based learning expedition where students will develop life skills and an understanding of living things, their life cycle, and their habitat.
- **Oklahoma** (Claremore) – Sequoyah Upper Elementary School’s *From Egg to Chicken and Beyond* project will allow 5th grade students to delve deeper into a basic embryology project as they explore connections between needs of animals and embryos, the agriculture behind the food they see in the grocery store, and then are challenged to apply engineering concepts as they design their own incubator systems.
- **Oklahoma** (Frederick) – Frederick Elementary School’s *Cheese Comes from Where?* Project will connect students with farmers and provide a visit to a local farm to learn first-hand about farming, cattle, and milk

production before apply science concepts as they venture into the cheese production process of mozzarella and cheddar cheese.

- **Texas** (Boerne) – Dr. Sara McAndrew Elementary School’s *Buzzes & Butterflies: A Pollinator Garden for the Children* project aims to increase agricultural awareness within their community and develop partnerships with farmers and beekeepers as the entire school community works together to establish and maintain a pollinator and vegetable garden where students can gain a better understanding of where their foods come from.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization made up of Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) programs in 49 states including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its mission is to educate teachers and students in grades Pre-K-12 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 agriculture. Together with its signature partners, it develops agriculture leaders for life. For more information, please visit www.chsfoundation.org.

FOR THE NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE TEACHERS WHOSE PROJECTS RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING, CONTACT ANDY GUFFEY BY CALLING (501)339-6140 OR EMAILING director@naitco.org.