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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CHS FOUNDATION FUNDS FIVE 'EDUCATING NEXT GENERATION AGRICULTURAL LEADERS GRANT' PROJECTS**

Thanks to a new CHS Foundation grant opportunity five state Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) programs will strengthen their educational resources and reach more teachers and students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade with the message of the importance of agriculture.

CHS Foundation's new 'Educating Next Generation Agricultural Leaders Grants' program is providing support to five state AIRC programs. Twenty state AIRC programs were eligible for the grant opportunity, and 10 submitted applications.

"CHS Foundation is committed to educating future agricultural leaders for life," said Nanci Lilja, president of CHS Foundation. "Supporting state Agriculture in the Classroom programs in their efforts to reach these future leaders with curricula and programming tied to agricultural concepts and careers is a key part of our mission."

"Partnerships like the one between National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization and the CHS Foundation are important in helping the national organization leverage its resources to help state Agriculture in the Classroom programs," said Willie Grenier, president of National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO), which administered the CHS Foundation grant program. "We're very appreciative of the support we receive from the CHS Foundation."

The five programs and projects that received funding are as follows:

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom to update and tie to SMART Board technology its Poultry Ag Mag, an educational student activity resource that educates students about poultry using the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subject areas. In addition, grant funding includes providing more pre-service teacher trainings and conducting evaluation outreach to measure the resource's effectiveness.
- Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation to reprint its *My Family Beef Farm* book and hold additional in-service and pre-service teacher workshops to show K-12 teachers how to use this resource and others like it to teach core subject areas using agricultural concepts.
- Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom to help fund a regional agricultural curriculum specialist to conduct K-12 teacher workshops throughout the state that demonstrate how to use its agricultural resources to teach core subject areas.
- Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation to update and reprint its *Get Organized* curriculum that uses state agriculture history and geography concepts to teach Oregon social studies standards to students in third and fourth grade.
- Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom to fund a summer work week in which educators from around the state will revise lessons developed as part of the organization's Wyoming Stewardship Project using feedback from teachers involved in the pilot testing of these lessons.

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 Foundation is focused on developing a new generation of agriculture leaders. It's achieving its goals through the following 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 agricultural leaders for life. For more information on CHS Foundation programs, please visit [www.chsinc.com/stewardship](http://www.chsinc.com/stewardship).

NAITCO is a non-profit organization made up of Agriculture in the Classroom programs in most of the 50 states 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.

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