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**CHS FOUNDATION FUNDS FOUR 'EDUCATING NEXT GENERATION
AGRICULTURAL LEADERS GRANT' PROJECTS**

Thanks to CHS Foundation's 'Educating Next Generation Agricultural Leaders Grant' four state Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) programs will strengthen their educational resources and reach more teachers and students in kindergarten through 12th grade with the message of the importance of agriculture.

The 'Educating Next Generation Agricultural Leaders Grants' program will provide support to four state AITC programs this year. Twenty state AITC programs were eligible for the grant opportunity, and 9 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."

"We're proud to partner with the CHS Foundation to help NAITCO leverage its resources to strengthen state Agriculture in the Classroom programs," said Will Fett, 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 four programs and projects that received funding are as follows:

- Colorado Foundation for Agriculture will develop a Colorado Reader called 'What Are Cooperatives?' for students in third through sixth grade, which will educate them about agricultural cooperatives both in a hard copy and online format and meet Colorado social studies standards for economics.
- Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation will create a student reader geared to middle school family and consumer science classes that will connect food and nutrition to agriculture and meet Iowa language arts, science and social studies standards.
- Oklahoma Agriculture in the Classroom will develop an in-service professional development program called 'BEEN THERE, 'HERD' THAT, GOT THE BOOK' In-Service' geared to elementary school librarians and media specialists in which agriculture tours, AITC lessons and AITC student readers will be used to reach an underserved educator group with the message of the importance of agriculture.
- Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation will create a new pre-service teacher workshop program to reach methods classes in eight of the 13 Oregon universities that have education colleges.

The CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., is focused on developing a new generation of agriculture leaders for life-long success. Together, with its partners, it is igniting innovation and driving excellence in agriculture education, cultivating high-impact programs for rural youth and accelerating potential for careers in agriculture. Learn more at www.chsfoundation.org.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization made up of Agriculture in the Classroom programs in most of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Its mission is to educate teachers and students in kindergarten through 12th grade about the importance of agriculture by using agricultural concepts into classroom instruction.

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