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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CHS FOUNDATION FUNDS FOUR "EDUCATING NEXT GENERATION  
AGRICULTURAL LEADERS GRANT" PROJECTS IN 2021**

Thanks to a partnership between National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) and the CHS Foundation, four state Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) programs will strengthen their educational resources and reach more teachers and students in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade with the message of the importance of agriculture in 2021.

The CHS Foundation's "Educating Next Generation Agricultural Leaders" grant program will provide support to four state AITC programs this year.

"Supporting state Agriculture in the Classroom programs in key states where CHS farmer owners live and work has allowed us to reach our 2020-21 impact goals," said Nanci Lilja, president, CHS Foundation. "Reaching current educators with curriculum and programming tied to agricultural concepts and careers is a key part of our support of teachers and efforts to increase student's interest in agriculture."

"With the support of the CHS Foundation, our state and territory AITC program members can reach more teachers and students across the nation, strengthening local AITC programs and increasing agricultural literacy for generations," said Denise Stewardson, president of NAITCO and director of Utah Agriculture in the Classroom.

The four programs and projects selected for funding are:

- Colorado Foundation for Agriculture for an advanced agricultural literacy course to be held during its "Summer AgriCULTURE Institute" to include training from the National Center for Agricultural Literacy team.
- Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation for a series of lessons that address entrepreneurship and cooperatives, fulfilling eighth grade social studies standards and highlighting a variety of agricultural businesses across the globe.
- Oklahoma Agriculture in the Classroom for "Ag Career CAMP," a one-day learning experience that highlights agriculture careers and is geared to high school students and educators.
- Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation for expansion to 45 classrooms of its monthly book club program which provides agriculturally accurate books and standards-aligned lessons to teachers.

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](http://www.chsfoundation.org).

NAITCO is a non-profit organization made up of Agriculture in the Classroom programs in most of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its mission is to educate teachers and students in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade about the importance of agriculture by using agricultural concepts into classroom instruction. Learn more about NAITCO at [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org)

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