



19 River Oaks Way
Palm Coast, FL 32137
T: (352) 745-0246

W: www.agclassroom.org
E: lisa.gaskalla@naitco.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JAN. 28, 2019**

**NAITCO TO SPREAD AGRICULTURAL LITERACY MESSAGE
TO MORE THAN 400 EDUCATORS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

LITTLE ROCK, AR – More than 400 educators from around the country will learn how to use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization's (NAITCO) National Conference called 'AgVenture in the Natural State' to be held June 19-21 at the Little Rock Marriott.

NAITCO and the Arkansas Farm Bureau's Agriculture in the Classroom program will hold three days of workshops showing kindergarten through 12th grade teachers how to use agriculture to teach core subjects. It received partial funding for the conference from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food & Agriculture (USDA/NIFA)

In addition, conference participants will go on traveling workshops of nearby agribusinesses and research facilities to learn about beef, poultry and rice production, worldwide hunger at Heifer International, and other agricultural issues at these and other stops. They also will hear from keynote speakers such as Temple Grandin, world renowned animal behaviorist and autism spokesperson, and Dr. Marty Matlock, executive director of the University of Arkansas Resiliency Center and Professor of Ecological Engineering in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department.

Early registration for the conference is \$435 until April 15. After that, it goes up to \$485. To register, please visit <https://naitconference.usu.edu/Register.cfm>. The conference will be held at the Little Rock Marriott. To reserve a hotel room, please visit <https://naitconference.usu.edu/Venue.cfm>.

CHS Foundation is once again offering scholarships to K-12 teachers who would like to attend the conference. The scholarship covers the cost of early registration of \$435. To apply for a CHS Foundation Scholarship, please visit <https://agclassroom.org/teacher/grants.cfm>.

The conference will honor national teacher winners and a national Agriculture Advocate winner for the innovative ways they use agriculture to teach students about this important industry.

"We are excited to host this year's National Agriculture in the Classroom National Conference in Arkansas," says Will Fett, president of NAITCO and executive director of the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation. "The national conference will use workshops, awards, and tours of farms to show educators how effectively agriculture can be used in formal classroom instruction."

NAITCO and Nutrien, Ltd. will announce new developments with its online games called 'Journey 2050' and 'Farmers 2050,' which allow players to become virtual farmers who make day-to-day decisions about what to plant, how to care for it and how to sustainably grow food.

Of the more than 400 conference participants expected to register, about half are teachers from around the country, many of whom received scholarships provided by CHS Foundation, Inc. to cover their conference registrations. In addition, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture will honor at the conference teachers and agriculture industry educators for using agriculture as an effective teaching tool as part of its White-Reinhardt Fund for Education program.

A big 'thank you' goes to national conference sponsors USDA/NIFA, CHS Foundation Inc., Nutrien Ltd., American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, American Egg Board, Ardent Mills, Corteva Agriscience, Farm Credit, Monsanto, Ford Motor Co., Iowa Farm Bureau, Protect the Harvest, Riceland Foods Foundation, Tyson Foods, among others. Their support helps keep registration costs low so more teachers could attend.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization representing state Agriculture in the Classroom programs in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Its mission is to educate K-12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture by providing them with materials, awards programs and a national conference that demonstrate how agriculture can be used to effectively teach core subject areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LISA GASKALLA AT lisa.gaskalla@naitco.org or (352) 745-0246.