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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SIX STATE AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAMS TO RECEIVE
'FIRE UP GRANT' FUNDING FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS**

The National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) has selected six state Agriculture in the Classroom projects for funding as part of a competitive grants program called 'Fire-Up Grants' to support the growth of agricultural literacy in K-12th grade classrooms across the country.

The purpose of the Fire Up Grants program is to strengthen new and existing state Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) programs with additional funding. Projects range from development of Agriculture Starter Kits to help teachers navigate the wealth of resources offered by California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom to training educators how to run mobile FARM Science Labs offered in schools by Michigan Farm Bureau's Agriculture in the Classroom program.

"We're proud to support our state Agriculture in the Classroom programs to help them reach even more K-12 teachers and students with ways to incorporate agricultural concepts into classroom instruction," said Will Fett, president of NAITCO and executive director of Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation.

Funding for the competitive grants program came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA). Projects selected for funding are:

Start Up Grants

- **Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation** – 'Finding Your Future in Agriculture (at Career Day)' kits and interactive displays to interest 6-12th grade students at Career Day events in pursuing agricultural careers.
- **California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom** – 'LearnAboutAg Starter Kits and LearnAboutAg 101 Video and Guide' to help K-12th grade teachers navigate the wealth of resources offered by NAITCO and the California AIRC program.

Scale Up Grants

- **Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom** – Increase the number of indoor school garden workshops to reach more K-12th grade teachers across Alaska with its online lesson plans called 'Alaska Indoor Gardening Curriculum.'
- **New Hampshire Agriculture in the Classroom** – Expand the 'Tapping into Maple Tradition' program with a new Ag Mag, new lessons, a new pre-service teacher program and grants for teachers interested in purchasing equipment to make maple in their classrooms.

Jump Up Grants

- **Michigan Farm Bureau's Agriculture in the Classroom** – Fund regional workshops to train educators to run the mobile FARM Science Labs developed by the Michigan AIRC program that travel to schools across the state to educate K-5th grade students about Michigan agriculture.
- **Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom** – Expand a volunteer toolkit to include new 'Who Grew My Food?' promotional materials and lesson plans called Who Grew My Breakfast? Who Grew My Lunch? and Who Grew my Pizza? to help volunteers reach even more students with the message of the importance of agriculture.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization representing most of the 50 state Agriculture in the Classroom programs around the country. Its mission is to educate K-12th grade teachers and students about the importance of agriculture by providing them with web-based materials, workshops and awards programs that demonstrate how agriculture can be used to effectively teach core subject areas.

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