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ARDENT MILLS CONTINUES SUPPORT OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

The premier flour milling and ingredient company, Ardent Mills, will continue its partnership with the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) and its Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) state program members to strengthen pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) through 12th grade agricultural literacy outreach and help educate students about the importance of agriculture.

"Educating youth about the source of their food, fiber and energy is key to having new generations of agriculturally literate consumers," said Phoenix Dugger, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager at Ardent Mills. "Ardent Mills works hard to support the future of the industry, and we're excited to continue this very important partnership."

Ardent Mills has supported NAITCO since 2018, as part of its continued commitment to positively impact the environment and local communities.

"We appreciate the support of partners like Ardent Mills, which helps NAITCO and AITC state programs reach even more teachers and students across the nation with lessons and programming that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and other subjects," said Tammy Maxey, president of NAITCO and programs director of Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom.

NAITCO and its AITC state program members reached 87,000 teachers and 8.2 million students in Pre-K through 12th grade in the U.S. in 2019.

Ardent Mills' vision is to be the trusted partner in nurturing its customers, consumers, and communities through innovative and nutritious grain-based solutions. Ardent Mills' operations and services are supported by more than 35 flour mills, a specialty bakery, a mix facility, and a quinoa processing plant, all located in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. Deeply rooted in communities throughout North America, Ardent Mills is headquartered in Denver, Colorado, and employs more than 100 certified millers, supporting thousands of local jobs and facilitating billions of dollars of local economic activity. To learn more about Ardent Mills, please visit <u>www.ardentmills.com</u>.

NAITCO's mission is to increase agricultural literacy through Pre-K-12 education and it does so with an online, searchable database of lessons and resources called the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix, a national conference, a virtual conference, a national teacher awards program and professional development and support for Agriculture in the Classroom state programs in 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To learn more about NAITCO, please visit www.agclassroom.org.

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