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## **BRANDT FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM**

The BRANDT Foundation, dedicated to supporting agricultural education, has partnered with the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) and its Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) program members.

The BRANDT Foundation's sponsorship supports the eLearning educational resources added to the NAITCO website at [eLearning \(agclassroom.org\)](http://eLearning.agclassroom.org) to help parents, teachers and students learn from home. In addition, The BRANDT Foundation is supporting the 2021 NAITCO Conference "Fields of Dreams," a "hybrid" conference scheduled for June 28-July 1 in Des Moines, Iowa, and offering an in-person option for people who can travel and a virtual option for people who cannot travel.

"We appreciate partners like The BRANDT Foundation that recognize the need to educate pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and students across the country about the importance of agriculture, particularly their support of the virtual options we're providing," said Tammy Maxey, president of NAITCO and programs director of Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom. "Their sponsorship helps NAITCO make an impact on millions of students nationally."

"Agriculture education is a key part of our mission and focus," said Karl Barnhart, vice president of The BRANDT Foundation. "It's critical that students—and the teachers who help shape their opinions—understand where their food comes from and how it is produced. Supporting National Agriculture in the Classroom helps increase agricultural literacy in classrooms across the country."

The mission of The BRANDT Foundation, established in 2012 as a philanthropic extension of The BRANDT, Inc., is to provide meaningful assistance and support to communities, farms, and families where it has operations. The BRANDT Foundation focuses on three funding priorities: agriculture education, food or farming charities, and health and human services. For more information, please visit <https://thebrandtfoundation.org/>.

NAITCO is a national non-profit that serves as the professional development organization for the AIRC programs in most of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It accomplishes its mission of educating Pre-K-12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture by providing a national website and a searchable database of hundreds of standards-based lessons and educational resources, a national conference, national awards programs and professional development opportunities for teachers, educators and AIRC representatives that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more. NAITCO and its AIRC state and territory program members reach 87,000 teachers and 8.2 million students annually. To learn more about NAITCO, please visit [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org).

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