

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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 23, 2020

## CORTEVA SUPPORTS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM'S eLEARNING, PRE-K-12<sup>th</sup> GRADE AGRICULTURAL LITERACY EFFORTS

Global agriculture company Corteva Agriscience is partnering with National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) and its Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) state program members to provide online educational resources and virtual experiences with an agricultural context to teachers, parents and students seeking materials for learning at home.

With the recent spread of the coronavirus and COVID-19 related social distancing in place, Corteva, NAITCO and the National Center for Agricultural Literacy (NCAL) at Utah State University recognized an opportunity to educate pre-kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade students about agriculture by making some of the lessons and activities in its searchable database of resources readily available to these educators.

"We already had hundreds of lessons and educational resources available on the Curriculum Matrix on the National Agriculture in the Classroom website so it made sense to create an eLearning page on the website and feature resources that have been revised in a way that makes it easy for students, parents and teachers to follow along," said Will Fett, president of NAITCO and executive director of the lowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation. "The support we received from Corteva Agriscience helped us defray the cost of these efforts."

"Corteva Agriscience is committed to strengthening Pre-K-12 agricultural literacy nationwide and wanted to support partners like National Agriculture in the Classroom in its efforts to provide resources to educators as classrooms moved from the school to the home this spring," said Ronda Hamm, Corteva Agriscience global academic relations manager.

The eLearning page on the NAITCO website at <a href="https://agclassroom.org/eLearning/index.cfm">https://agclassroom.org/eLearning/index.cfm</a> divides lessons and activities into grade bands of pre-kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and covers plant science, embryology, physical and chemical science involving food, inexpensive table top hydroponics gardens, renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy and more. It also provides the lesson and activities in Google Docs and develops tutorial videos for educational resources that need additional instruction to make it easy for students and educators to follow along.

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 Curriculum Matrix, a national conference, a national teacher awards program and professional development and support for Agriculture in the Classroom state programs in 50 states including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NAITCO and its AITC member state programs reached 96,000 teachers and 8.2 million students in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the U.S. in 2018. To learn more about NAITCO, please visit <a href="https://www.agclassroom.org">www.agclassroom.org</a>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT LISA GASKALLA AT (352) 745-0246 OR LISA.GASKALLA@NAITCO.ORG