



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

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

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**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH SUPPORTS
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM**

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has partnered with the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) and its Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) program members to increase agricultural literacy across the nation. They are sponsoring the 2021 NAITCO Conference "Fields of Dreams," scheduled for June 28-July 1 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

In addition to its financial support, Iowa State is hosting traveling workshops during the conference to its BioCentury Research Farm biomass facility and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Dairy Farm, which will showcase for educators the science, math, and social studies applications behind these operations.

"Having the support of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach presents a wonderful connection for our conference attendees. Land grant universities are home to state extension programs, offering experiential learning opportunities and research-based programs that are based on the needs of their local communities," said Will Fett, executive director of Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation and host of this year's conference. "Their support will open new doors for some of this year's conference goers."

"We strive to build a strong Iowa by engaging all Iowans in research, education, and extension experiences to address current and emerging real-life challenges," said John Lawrence, vice president for ISU Extension and Outreach. "Supporting National Agriculture in the Classroom and its efforts to strengthen Pre-K-12 agricultural literacy is important, as many Americans do not understand the source of their food, fiber and fuels."

Extension and Outreach, part of Iowa State University, is dedicated to taking the university's research and turning it into learning opportunities for Iowans to thrive. There is an Extension office in all 99 counties of Iowa, which bring Iowa State University research-based educational experiences to Iowans. In turn, they communicate the needs of Iowans back to the university to help shape research and educational experiences. For more information, please visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/>.

NAITCO is a national nonprofit that serves as the professional development organization for nearly all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its mission is to educate teachers and students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade (Pre-K-12) about the importance of agriculture with a national website, searchable database of hundreds of standards-based lessons and educational resources, a national conference, national awards programs, and professional development opportunities for AIRC programs that show teachers how to use agriculture as the context to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more. It reaches 87,000 teachers and 8.2 million students annually. To learn more about NAITCO, please visit <https://agclassroom.org/>.

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