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PROTECT THE HARVEST SUPPORTS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

Protect The Harvest, a non-profit organization that advocates for farmers, ranchers, outdoor enthusiasts, and animal owners, has again pledged to support the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) and its Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program members in 2021.

The organization has directed its sponsorship support toward the annual meeting of AITC state and territory members scheduled for Monday, June 28. The annual meeting is the day before the start of the 2021 NAITCO conference "Fields of Dreams" on June 29-July 1 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa. The national conference is being held as a hybrid event this year, which offers an in-person option and a virtual option for teachers and educators across the country.

"The continued support of Protect The Harvest is sincerely appreciated," said Tammy Maxey, president of NAITCO and programs director of Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom. "The support of the organization allows for additional opportunities for our network of AITC programs nationwide and helps provide educational experiences related to agriculture for our attendees in Iowa that are unique and exciting."

"Agriculture advocacy is part of our mission at Protect The Harvest," said Dale Ludwig, president of Protect The Harvest board of directors. "We're happy to support organizations like National Agriculture in the Classroom that work to provide educators and students with accurate resources that explain the value of the agriculture industry and the impact it has on their lives.

Forrest Lucas, founder of Lucas Oil Products, created Protect The Harvest in 2011 to address the activities of animal and environmental extremist groups that are targeting our way of life. Protect The Harvest's mission is to educate and inform America's farmers, ranchers, animal owners and sportsmen and sportswomen about the activities of animal and environmental extremist groups and to help provide information and tools with which to fight back against their agenda. For more information, please visit <u>https://protecttheharvest.com/</u>

NAITCO is a non-profit organization that serves as the professional development organization for AITC programs in most of the 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 about the importance of agriculture by incorporating agricultural concepts into classroom instruction. It does so with 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 AITC state and territory programs that show teachers how to use agriculture as the context to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more. To learn more about NAITCO, please visit <u>www.agclassroom.org</u>.

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