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Media Alert

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National Teach Ag Day Celebration at CHS Includes \$1.5 Million Gift to Agricultural Education

CHS hosted the National Teach Ag Day celebration at its headquarters in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. today, which included the announcement of a \$1.5 million gift over the next three years from CHS to further agricultural education in the United States.

National Teach Ag Day, which was streamed live online to celebrants watching all over the United States, brought attention to the current shortage of agriculture teachers and celebrated the contributions agriculture teachers make in their classrooms every day. Highlights of the celebration included panels of agricultural education leaders who fielded questions asked during the event via social media, text and email, as well as recognition of students who want to become agriculture teachers.

The celebration kicked off with the CHS announcement that it was committing \$1.5 million dollars over the next three years to further agricultural education in the U.S. The gift was made to the National FFA Foundation, with a portion of the funds earmarked for the National Teach Ag Campaign as well as the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education.

“We are thrilled that CHS chose today to announce its ongoing support for agricultural education, including their continued support for the National Teach Ag Campaign,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator. “They have already given more than \$450,000 to the National Teach Ag Campaign since 2010, and the fact that they are continuing to create opportunities to recruit the best and brightest to agricultural education is just amazing.”

William Nelson, President of the CHS Foundation, talked about CHS’s long standing support of agricultural education, beginning 40 years ago when the farmers who started CHS’s founding co-ops started a fund to support agricultural education.

“CHS is committed to helping create a strong future and strong future leaders for rural America,” says William Nelson, president, CHS Foundation and vice president, CHS Corporate Citizenship. “We are proud to carry out this commitment through increased support of National FFA and the National Teach Ag Campaign, both of which do exceptional work in furthering agricultural education and developing the next generation of leaders in agriculture.”

Molly Ball, National FFA Foundation president, said, “The National FFA Foundation is grateful for the support of CHS for the future of agricultural education. With the depth and breadth of the multi-year gift they have made, we are able to reach every student and every teacher, in every classroom every day.”

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative to raise awareness of the need for more agricultural educators and celebrate the contributions agricultural educators make in their classrooms every day. CHS has been a sponsor of the

National Teach Ag Campaign since 2010, contributing more than \$450,000. The campaign is a project of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. It is funded by CHS, DuPont Pioneer and Growth Energy, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

CHS Inc. (www.chsinc.com) is a leading global agribusiness owned by farmers, ranchers and cooperatives across the United States. Diversified in energy, grains and foods, CHS is committed to helping its customers, farmer-owners and other stakeholders grow their businesses through its domestic and global operations. CHS, a Fortune 100 company, supplies energy, crop nutrients, grain marketing services, animal feed, food and food ingredients, along with business solutions including insurance, financial and risk management services. The company operates petroleum refineries/pipelines and manufactures, markets and distributes Cenex® brand refined fuels, lubricants, propane and renewable energy products.

The National FFA Foundation builds partnerships with industry, education, government, other foundations and individuals to secure financial resources that recognize FFA member achievements, develop student leaders and support the future of agricultural education. Governed by a 19-member board of trustees comprised of educators, business leaders, individual donors and FFA alumni, the foundation is a separately-registered nonprofit organization. About 82 percent of every dollar received by the foundation supports FFA members and agricultural education opportunities. For more, visit FFA.org/Give.