

National Teach Ag Campaign

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHS FOUNDATION MAKES SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN STATE TEACH AG RESULTS (STAR) PROGRAM

LEXINGTON, Ky. – On Thursday, September 22nd, during the National Teach Ag Day live webcast, the CHS Foundation, funded by charitable contributions from CHS Inc., announced an additional \$280,000 commitment to the State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program through the National FFA Foundation.

The STAR program, which began in 2014, was developed to address the agriculture teacher shortage at the state level. States involved in the program work directly with the National Teach Ag Campaign to develop sustainable and effective strategies that address the shortage in their state. STAR states receive grant funding to host agricultural education recruitment events at universities, host Teach Ag workshops, implement mentoring programs, create state Teach Ag webpages, incorporate work/life balance professional development training for current teachers, and provide other resources to help recruit and retain quality and diverse agriculture teachers.

“Working with states to develop customized recruitment and retention plans is key to our mission at the National Teach Ag Campaign,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director. “The continued support of the CHS Foundation makes this critical work possible and is truly making a difference in ensuring a quality and diverse supply of agriculture teachers who will inspire the next generation of leaders, problem solvers, entrepreneurs and agriculturalists.”

It is anticipated that a total of 28 states will be enrolled in the STAR program in 2017; up from the original 11 that participated in 2014. The CHS Foundation grant commitment will allow states in the

STAR program to receive increased financial support for their recruitment and retention strategies and initiatives. With this additional funding, STAR states will now receive grants upwards of \$8,000.

“The CHS Foundation is proud to continue our support of the National Teach Ag Campaign and specifically the STAR program,” said Linda Tank, President, CHS Foundation. “We continue to recognize that while the shortage of qualified ag teachers is widespread, each state faces a unique set of challenges. With support from the STAR program, states can come up with customized, innovative solutions to recruit and retain agricultural educators.”

The CHS Foundation has proudly sponsored the National Teach Ag Campaign since 2011. In 2014, the CHS Foundation made a three-year, \$1.5 million commitment through the National FFA Foundation to support agricultural education and the National Teach Ag Campaign. In 2016, the CHS Foundation made their first STAR program support with a \$250,000 grant towards the STAR program. The additional funding in 2017 will allow the STAR program to advance its efforts further and make a significant impact on the agriculture teacher shortage. For more information about the STAR program, please visit <http://www.naae.org/teachag/starstates.cfm>.

The STAR Program is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators with sponsor support from the CHS Foundation, DuPont Pioneer and Growth Energy as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The National Teach Ag Campaign raises awareness of the need to recruit and retain high quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourages others to consider a career teaching agriculture, and celebrates the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in their schools and communities. <http://www.naae.org/teachag>

The CHS Foundation is funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperative and a global energy, grains and foods company. As a part of the CHS stewardship focus, the CHS Foundation supports organizations that develop future leaders for agriculture through education and leadership programs, improve agricultural safety and enhance community vitality in rural America. For more information about the CHS Foundation, please visit <http://www.chsinc.com/stewardship/leadership-development>.

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