

National Teach Ag Campaign

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NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL TEACH AG CAMPAIGN SELECTS TWELVE FUTURE AGRICULTURE TEACHERS FOR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Over the course of the next year, 12 future agriculture teachers from across the nation will serve as National Teach Ag Ambassadors. The selected students were chosen from a nationwide pool of applicants this spring. The primary goal for the ambassadors is to encourage others to consider a career as an agriculture teacher, by sharing their passion and enthusiasm with others. Specifically, the ambassadors will represent the National Teach Ag Campaign at the 2017 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. October 25-28. The ambassadors will also work with local and state leaders in agricultural education to encourage students to pursue a major in agricultural education throughout their year of service.

The Teach Ag Ambassadors will also develop a cohort of future and current agriculture teachers who will inspire the next generation of leaders, problem solvers, entrepreneurs and agriculturalists while at National FFA Convention and throughout the year. The ambassadors will promote the National Teach Ag Campaign through emails, social media, presentations, and other various outlets. The demand for agriculture teachers remains high due to retirements, current program growth, new programs opening, and current teachers leaving to explore other opportunities. The 12 selected ambassadors will share their passion for teaching agriculture in an effort to address the perennial demand. They will also have the opportunity to build their own professional network and develop leadership and communication skills they will need in their future careers as agriculture teachers.

“As the number of agricultural education programs continues to grow, we need more quality and diverse agriculture teachers to fill the roles,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director. “The ambassador program gives us an opportunity to deliver the Teach Ag message to a bigger audience, while investing in the next generation of agriculture teachers.”

The 12 National Teach Ag Ambassadors for the 2017-2018 academic year are Heather Brown, Oregon State University; Kelse Brown, Ohio State University; Victoria Herr, Pennsylvania State University; Leah Jacobs, Purdue University; Katrena Jordan, Murray State University; Ty Kalleck, University of Missouri; Ariel Kent, Florida A&M University; Shannah Marshall, University of Kentucky; Hannah McBurnett, Auburn University; Eric Moser, Michigan State University; Madelyn Regier, South Dakota State University; and Shelbie Rochel, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. The National Teach Ag Campaign is funded by the CHS Foundation, DuPont Pioneer, Growth Energy, and BASF as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The campaign is designed to raise an awareness of the career opportunities in agricultural education, encourage others to consider a career as an agriculture teacher and celebrate the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in their schools and communities. For more information about the National Teach Ag Campaign, visit <http://www.naae.org/teachag>.

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