

National Teach Ag Campaign

300 Garrigus, Lexington, KY 40546-0215
859.257.2224 | www.naae.org/teachag

NEWS RELEASE

For more information:

Ellen Thompson

Project Director, National Teach Ag Campaign

ethompson.naae@uky.edu

Phone: (605) 350-3842

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2018 NATIONAL TEACH AG CHAMPIONS SELECTED

DES MOINES – As part of the annual National Teach Ag Day celebration, the National Teach Ag Campaign recognizes individuals who play an important role in agricultural education as Teach Ag Champions. These individuals encourage others to pursue a career in teaching agriculture and celebrate the important role agriculture teachers play in the lives of their students – all in an effort to address the national demand for agriculture teachers.

This year's Teach Ag Champions were selected based upon their passion and dedication to transforming agricultural education into a more inclusive and diverse profession while cultivating the next generation of agriculture teachers. The 2018 National Teach Ag Champions are Luke Allen, Program Coordinator for Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education in Illinois; Jessie Lumpkins, agriculture teacher at McGavock High School, in Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Travis Park, Associate Professor of Agricultural and Extension Education at North Carolina State University; and Nancy Trivette, Leader of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Education at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

Luke Allen is a dedicated mentor and resource for preservice and early career agriculture teachers in the state of Illinois. He facilitates state-level Future Agriscience Teacher (FAST) Symposiums for agricultural education majors, which focus on making high school agriculture programs more inclusive and diverse. He also coordinates National Teach Ag Day celebration activities across Illinois.

Jessie Lumpkins uses social media to showcase her career as an agriculture teacher and share her passion for agricultural education. Lumpkins has been featured as a panelist during Teach Ag workshops and previous National Teach Ag Day live webcasts. As a member of the Tennessee State Teach Ag Results (STAR) team, she works to address the demand for agriculture teachers at the state level by encouraging high school and college students to major in agricultural education.

Dr. Travis Park is a confidant and mentor to preservice teachers, current teachers, and agriculture students across the state of North Carolina. He serves on the National Teach Ag Advisory Board as a member and subcommittee chair. Dr. Park coordinates countless Teach Ag activities for teachers and students across the state to promote the agricultural education profession. He also developed the Teach Ag Family Tree and serves as the North Carolina STAR state contact.

Nancy Trivette is instrumental in planning and implementing Teach Ag promotional activities in New Jersey. She is a mentor to numerous current and future agriculture teachers in her state and promotes the agricultural education profession as a wonderful career choice at every opportunity she is given. She also serves as a member of the National Teach Ag Advisory Board and as the New Jersey STAR state contact.

Each of the 2018 Teach Ag Champions will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments during the National Teach Ag Day live celebration on Thursday, September 20th, at the Corteva Agriscience Agriculture Division of DowDuPont headquarters, in Johnston, Iowa.

National Teach Ag Day is a nationwide celebration that encourages others to consider a career teaching agriculture, while recognizing the contributions that agriculture teachers make in our schools and communities. Agriculture teachers are key to developing essential career and life skills in students, so that they will be successful problem solvers, leaders, entrepreneurs and agriculturalists. To log on to the live webcast, or for resources to help you plan your local Teach Ag Day celebration, visit naae.org/teachag.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is a project of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Funding for the National Teach Ag Campaign is provided by the CHS Foundation, Corteva Agriscience™ Agriculture Division of DowDuPont™, BASF, Herman & Bobbie Wilson, and Growth Energy, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of the need to recruit and retain high quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourage others to consider a career teaching agriculture, and celebrate the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in our schools and communities. For more information about the National Teach Ag Campaign, visit www.naae.org/teachag.

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