FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR PARTNERS SELECTED AS 2019 NATIONAL TEACH AG CHAMPIONS

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK – Each year, the National Teach Ag Campaign recognizes those who play an important role in agricultural education as Teach Ag Champions during its National Teach Ag Day celebration. Those recognized play an integral part in the recruitment and retention efforts of the National Teach Ag Campaign, in order to address the national demand for agriculture teachers.

This year’s Teach Ag Champions were selected based upon their commitment to agriculture teacher recruitment and retention and their unwavering willingness to promote the National Teach Ag Campaign’s message of ensuring a quality and diverse supply of agriculture teachers. The 2019 National Teach Ag Champions are Agriculture Future of America (AFA), the Cultivating Change Foundation (CCF), the National FFA Organization (FFA), and the National Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Organization.

Agriculture Future of America is an organization that builds transformational leaders in food and agriculture. Based in Kansas City, Missouri, the AFA Leaders Conference includes a special agricultural education session for those pursuing careers to become agriculture teachers. In 2018, 52 preservice agricultural educators participated in this special professional development opportunity. The conference also offers resume support and a special breakfast for agricultural education majors from across the nation.

The Cultivating Change Foundation values and elevates LGBTQ+ agriculturalists through advocacy, education, and community. It is based in San Francisco, California. At its annual Summit, the CCF hosts a Future Agriscience Teacher Symposium. In the last two years, there have been 17 participants in this symposium for preservice agricultural educators. The CCF board members also provide training for agriculture students and teachers in the areas of inclusion, diversity and equity.

The National FFA Organization, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares its members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. It has provided IT and marketing support for National Teach Ag Day, includes the Teach Ag promotional poster in its annual FFA Advisor mailing, and offers multiple Teach Ag workshop options at National FFA Convention.
The Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences Organization promotes academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, this organization has hosted Teach Ag workshops at multiple conferences, with a reach of over 100 members in the last five years. In 2019, MANRRS also hosted a Future Agriscience Teacher Symposium for 12 participants at its national conference. It also has representation on the Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity Task Force – a joint initiative of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) and the National FFA Organization.

Each of the 2019 Teach Ag Champions will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments during the National Teach Ag Day live webcast celebration on Thursday, September 19th, at the BASF headquarters, in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

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™, Growth Energy, and BASF, 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.

####