

National Teach Ag Campaign

300 Garrigus, Lexington, KY 40546-0215
859-257-2224 | www.naae.org/teachag



NEWS RELEASE

For more information:

Ellen Thompson

National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director

ethompson.naae@uky.edu

Phone: (605) 350-3842

September 24, 2015 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHS FOUNDATION PROVIDES STATE TEACH AG RESULTS (STAR) PROGRAM GRANT COMMITMENT

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The CHS Foundation has made an additional \$250,000 commitment to provide increased funding for the State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program, an initiative of the National Teach Ag Campaign.

Currently, there is a national agriculture teacher shortage. The STAR program, which began in 2014, was developed to address the 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 agriculture teacher 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 agriculture teachers.

“The STAR program is central to the work we do at the National Teach Ag Campaign,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director. “The increased support from the CHS Foundation will ensure that the states enrolled in the program are able to carry out the needed initiatives to recruit and retain the next generation of outstanding agriculture teachers.”

It is anticipated that a total of 25 states will be enrolled in the STAR program in 2016. The CHS grant commitment will allow states in the STAR program to receive increased financial support for their recruitment and retention projects and initiatives. With this additional funding, STAR states will now receive grants upwards of \$8,000.

National Teach Ag Campaign

300 Garrigus, Lexington, KY 40546-0215
859-257-2224 | www.naae.org/teachag



“The CHS Foundation believes that agricultural education is the key to growing rural communities,” said William Nelson, President of the CHS Foundation. “We value the contributions agriculture teachers make to the agricultural industry and the communities in which they serve, so addressing the national agriculture teacher shortage is an absolute priority.”

The CHS Foundation has proudly sponsored the National Teach Ag Campaign since 2011. They were the host site for the fifth annual National Teach Ag Day live webcast. 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. The additional funding in 2015 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 CHS Foundation is the major giving entity of 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 education and leadership programs that invest in the future of agriculture, cooperative business, and rural America. 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.

For more information about the CHS Foundation, please visit <http://www.chsinc.com/stewardship/leadership-development>.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. It is funded by 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 quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourages

National Teach Ag Campaign

300 Garrigus, Lexington, KY 40546-0215
859-257-2224 | www.naae.org/teachag



others to consider a career teaching agriculture, and celebrates the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in their schools and communities. www.naae.org/teachag

###