

National Teach Ag Campaign

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NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL TEACH AG CAMPAIGN SELECTS 2017 TEACH AG CHAMPIONS

CHICAGO – Each year, the National Teach Ag Campaign formally recognizes individuals and organizations who work tirelessly to address the national demand for agriculture teachers, as Teach Ag Champions. This year's Teach Ag Champions were selected based upon their exceptional work in identifying the needs of their states and implementing effective strategies to recruit and retain high quality and diverse agriculture teachers. The 2017 National Teach Ag Champions are the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation and Dr. Jeremy Falk, Associate Professor for Agriculture and Extension Education at the University of Idaho.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation has worked alongside Nebraska Team Ag Ed since 2014. As part of their commitment to agricultural education in Nebraska, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation has pioneered two scholarship programs; one for current agricultural education majors at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and one for current agriculture teachers within the state of Nebraska, who are in their first to fifth years of teaching to help pay off student loans. The scholarship programs started in Nebraska have inspired other states to develop similar partnerships as well.

Dr. Jeremy Falk was selected as a Teach Ag Champion for his work at both the state and national levels to address the demand for agriculture teachers. He developed an agriculture teacher trading card activity that is currently being used across the country to help recruit and retain agriculture teachers, while allowing agriculture teachers to tell their Teach Ag story to students and others through their cards. Dr. Falk started and coordinates the Region I National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Preservice Agriculture Teacher Track and serves as a valuable asset of the National Teach Ag Campaign Advisory Board for his forward thinking and innovative ideas.

Both recipients will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments during the live National Teach Ag Day celebration that will be held Thursday, September 21st, at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, in Chicago, Ill. It is thanks to individuals and partnering organizations like Dr. Falk

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and the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation, that make the valuable work of the National Teach Ag Campaign possible.

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, Growth Energy, and BASF 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 our schools and communities. www.naae.org/teachag

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