



National Association of Agricultural Educators

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS HONORS KRISTA PONTIUS AS NATIONAL TEACH AG CHAMPION

LEXINGTON, KY – The National Teach Ag Campaign annually selects individuals and organizations who diligently serve the agricultural education profession as National Teach Ag Champions. The campaign, an initiative of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), honors those who have gone above and beyond to recruit and retain high-quality and diverse agriculture teachers, while fostering positive classroom environments which encourage students from all backgrounds to become involved in agriculture.

This year, the National Teach Ag Campaign has selected three agricultural educators as National Teach Ag Champions because of their mentorship of current and future agriculture teachers, their willingness to step up and lead whenever needed, and their support of the Teach Ag message. This year, Ms. Krista Pontius, was named one of the three 2020 National Teach Ag Champions.

Pontius is an agriculture teacher at Greenwood High School, in Millerstown, Pennsylvania. Beyond the classroom setting, she also serves as a NAAE Mentor Facilitator, where her role is to help current and future agriculture teachers develop inquiry-based instruction modules for their students. She is also a National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador and facilitates numerous workshops across the country, engaging other professionals in agricultural education in inquiry-based instructional practices and providing her knowledge and experience to budding agriculture teachers. In addition to those roles, she also serves as a mentor for teachers in the NAAE XLR8 program.

For her role beyond the classroom as a mentor for current and future agriculture teachers, the National Association of Agricultural Educators and National Teach Ag Campaign are thrilled to recognize Pontius as a 2020 National Teach Ag Champion.

The National Teach Ag Campaign honored Pontius and the other champions as part of the National Teach Ag Day celebration on Thursday, September 17, 2020 from the National Association of Agricultural Educators' (NAAE) office, in Lexington, Kentucky.

NAAE is the professional organization in the United States for agricultural educators. It provides its more than 8,000 members with professional networking and development opportunities, professional liability coverage, and extensive awards and recognition programs. The mission of NAAE is “professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service.” The NAAE headquarters are in Lexington, Ky.

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.

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