National Teach Ag Campaign

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUTURE AGRISCIENCE TEACHERS SELECTED TO ATTEND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

Lexington, KY – The National Teach Ag Campaign has selected 20 agricultural education majors from across the country to attend the Future Agriscience Teacher (FAST) symposium as a part of the National Association of Agricultural Educators' (NAAE) annual convention in December. This group of future agriscience educators will spend five days receiving professional development that will help them in their future careers as classroom agriculture teachers. The symposium will include training in cultural competency, inquiry-based classroom instruction, classroom management techniques, and the development of engaging agricultural curriculum to promote and enhance the science in agriculture. The FAST participants will also be able to attend regional, committee and organizational business meetings, as well as professional development workshops with current agriculture teachers. The NAAE convention will be December 5-9 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tenn.

 "Networking, along with professional development are essential parts of becoming successful agriculture teachers," said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director. "Providing our future agriscience teachers with the opportunity to actively engage with each other and current agriculture teachers at the national level is one of the best ways to develop 21st century agriculture teachers. The FAST symposium at NAAE convention is a great way to accomplish this and ensure we are filling the national demand for agriculture teachers."

The 20 selected participants are: Angela Becker, Pennsylvania State University; Madeline Bode, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Heather Brown, Oregon State University; Chad Cullison, University of Arizona; George Dietrich, Pennsylvania State University; Kelly Dressler, Purdue University; Phoebe Frazer, University of Missouri; Logan Heiby, Ohio State University; Alicia Kabat, University of Illinois; Jessica Kelley, Oklahoma State University; Abby Lohman, Oregon State University; Danielle Marks, Purdue University; Frances Nicol, Ohio State University; Aleah Shook, University of Arizona; Baylee Siemens, Kansas State University; McCord Snider, Purdue University; Eilish Stewart, Purdue University; Nels Swenson, Oregon State University; Kisia Weeks, Utah State University; Lindsey Williams, Purdue University; and Victoria Willis, Clemson University.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. The CHS Foundation, DuPont Pioneer, Growth Energy, and BASF as a special project of the National FFA Foundation fund the campaign. 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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