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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **AGRICULTURE-RELATED CLASSROOM PROJECTS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO RECEIVE CHS FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDING**

Students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will learn their reading, writing, math, science and social studies lessons with an agricultural twist thanks to \$500 in grant funding from the CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO).

Sixteen projects involving pollination activities, innovative hydroponics growing systems and classroom embryology initiatives were selected for funding from more than 90 highly competitive applications submitted.

“We proudly support the innovative projects these teachers are creating using hands-on agriculture as the vehicle for higher level classroom learning,” said Willie Grenier, president of NAITCO and executive director of Maine Agriculture in the Classroom.

“The CHS Foundation is committed to developing the next generation of agriculture leaders,” said Nanci Lilja, CHS Foundation president. “By supporting the Classroom Grant program, students are learning agriculture concepts in unique ways that will introduce them to the industry and spark interest in agriculture careers.”

The projects funded will reach students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade around the country and will cover a variety of subjects. They are:

- **California** – St. Patrick Catholic School’s *‘BeePollen Friendly’* project will help fourth graders learn the importance of bees to the pollination of fruit, vegetable and ornamental crops in their raised bed school garden that will be expanded with grant funds.
- **California** – Santa Rosa Academy’s *‘Hydrorecyverticulture’* project will allow 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders to build vertical, solar-powered, recirculating hydroponics systems that incorporate recycled or repurposed materials.
- **California** – Sandia Academy’s *‘Egg to Hen and Back Again’* project will enable kindergarteners to complete their understanding of the chicken life cycle by observing chicks hatched in the prior year lay eggs and hatch chicks.
- **Florida** – North Andrews Gardens Elementary School’s *‘High Tech Garden: Bringing Technology into the Garden at the Gardens’* will help second graders to use the school garden to apply STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) skills by using a three-dimensional printer to create garden labels, developing QR codes for the garden directed to the school website where more school garden information is available and more.
- **Florida** – Ocoee High School’s *‘Farm to Table, School Greenhouse to Cafeteria’* gives ninth, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders a chance to propagate cucumber, lettuce and tomato seeds and plant the seedlings in a school greenhouse and hydroponics system, the harvest of which will be served to fellow students in the school cafeteria.
- **Florida** – Buddy Taylor Middle School’s *‘Eagles and their Pollinator Garden: A traditional, raised bed and hydroponics garden’* project will enable seventh and eighth graders to conduct an experiment to see if establishing a pollinator garden next to the school vegetable garden impacts the yield.

- **Indiana** – Sugar Creek Elementary School’s *‘Which Came First: The Chicken or the Egg? Embryology in Kindergarten’* will allow students to observe eggs hatch in a classroom incubator, care for the chicks afterward, participate in read-aloud activities and write in personal journals.
- **Iowa** – Northeast High School’s *‘Agricultural Podcast Series’* will help 11<sup>th</sup> graders host a weekly agricultural podcast series with local and state leaders in the agricultural industry. Students will develop questions for the interviews, speak with industry leaders, record their responses and manage the production and social media of the project.
- **Kansas** – Bentwood Elementary School’s *‘Bentwood Barn’* project will allow first graders to learn about Kansas agriculture by establishing a ‘First Grade Field’ of Kansas crops and sunflowers, learning about farm equipment and developing their own farm implements to solve problems farmers face.
- **Louisiana** – Northwestern State University Elementary Lab School’s *‘Super Power Pollinator! It’s a Bird. It’s a Plane. No, It’s Our Garden Heroes, the Mighty Pollinators’* is a school-wide project in which students will plant two pollinator gardens, participate in lessons about the importance of honey bees in agriculture and work with university specialists to track what these students learn from the project.
- **Minnesota** – Greenvale Park Elementary School’s *‘Farm Day’* is a school-wide event during which students are routed through stations educating them about Minnesota agriculture, the importance of pollination, animal husbandry techniques and the nutritious benefits eating freshly grown produce provides.
- **Minnesota** – Jefferson Elementary School’s *‘Growing the Growing Season’* project will expand the school garden to include lettuce, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, radishes, and other cold-weather crops so first, second, third and fourth graders can plant and harvest these items before school is dismissed for the summer.
- **Pennsylvania** - Honesdale High School and Stourbridge Elementary School’s *‘What Came First, the Chicken or the Egg?’* project will allow high school students to educate elementary students about the life cycle of chickens by incubating eggs, building a chicken coop, charting the chicks’ growth and learning about proper animal husbandry techniques.
- **South Carolina** – Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary School’s *‘Earth Heart Growers’* is a school-wide project in which younger students will plant seeds and cultivate plants in the school garden, older students will work with a local farmer at the farm and in the school garden and all students will distribute produce they grow through a school market, ‘Healthy Basket’ initiative in the community and culinary program at the school.
- **Virginia** – Liberty Elementary School’s *‘What’s the Buzz on Honey Bees’* project will allow third graders to work with local beekeepers to establish a pollination garden, learn about the issues resulting in honeybee population decline and educate fellow students about the challenges facing honeybees using QR codes placed around the school.
- **Wisconsin** – Parkview Elementary School’s *‘Biosecurity on the Farm’* project will educate fourth graders about the importance of biosecurity on the farm, and involve them in developing food safety measures as part of an FFA Food for America event.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization based in Palm Coast, Florida made up of Agriculture in the Classroom programs in 46 states and six territories. Its mission is to educate teachers and students in kindergarten through 12th grade about the importance of agriculture by incorporating agricultural concepts into classroom instruction.

The CHS Foundation is funded by charitable gifts from 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 organizations that develop future leaders for agriculture through education and leadership programs. Learn more at [chsinc.com/stewardship](http://chsinc.com/stewardship).

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