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CHS FOUNDATION, NAITCO FUND 15 CLASSROOM GRANT PROJECTS AROUND U.S.

GAINESVILLE, FL - STEM school gardens, embryology projects and aquaponics growing systems were just a few of the projects funded by 15 \$500 classroom grants provided by the CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO).

NAITCO received 115 applications for the 2016 CHS Classroom Grant program.

'We were excited by the number of applications we received from teachers around the country,' said NAITCO President Chris Fleming of the Tennessee Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. 'There is an obvious interest from K-12 teachers in using agriculture to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more, and these grants will help fund some very innovative ideas.'

"The CHS Foundation is committed to developing the next generation of agriculture leaders," said Linda Tank, 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 grade levels ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade and cover subject areas from reading, writing, science and arithmetic. They include:

- Alabama - Collinsville High School's 'Edible Education: Help Our Garden Grow! Pizza herb garden project in which students will grow the herbs to be used on pizzas they will serve in the classroom.
- Alabama - Pinecrest Elementary's 'The Vegetation Station at 5' project in which fruits and vegetables will be grown in a school garden and served in the school cafeteria.
- Colorado - Valley School's 'Back to the Basics: Bringing Relevancy of Agriculture into the Classroom' in which high school students will use a hydroponics growing system to grow and distribute in their community leafy green vegetables and herbs.
- Georgia - Roopville Elementary's 'Play in the Dirt: STEM Gardening' in which students will use an existing greenhouse to grow, market and sell herbs and vegetables to their parents and their community.
- Illinois - Albion Grade School's 'What's Inside an Egg?' embryology project in which second graders will use four incubators to learn about the life cycle of chickens.

- Illinois - Manual High School & Harrison Middle School's 'The GLOW Girl Chef Challenge' in which the two schools will partner with local farmers and chefs to educate at-risk youth about culinary careers.
- Maryland - Crellin Elementary's 'Aquaponics in the Classroom' project in which fifth graders will use engineering and technology concepts to develop an aquaponics growing system.
- Michigan - North Huron School's 'Thumbs Up to Connecting the Mitten' project in which fourth and fifth graders participate an elementary agriculture program to help them better understand and appreciate Michigan agriculture.
- Nebraska - Auburn Public School's 'Auburn Ag Ed: Teaching Students to Grow and Feed' project in which students in 8th through 12th grade will learn how to grow food using different growing systems.
- New Jersey - Barclay Brook School's 'First Grade Farmers' project in which first graders participate in a challenge to build the most efficient trellis to grow pea plants.
- New York - Worcester Central School's 'Worcester's Community STEM Garden' project in which students in 1st through 6th grade will design systems to grow produce in a school garden to be served in the school cafeteria.
- Tennessee - South Lincoln School's 'Eagle Garden Project' project in which fourth and fifth graders will grow seedlings in the classroom in the winter to be used in the school garden in the spring.
- US Virgin Islands - Juanita Gardine Elementary's 'Hurricane's Promise Patch' project in which third graders will use the skills their learned in the school garden to develop a community garden.
- Virginia - Riverheads High School's 'Outdoor Learning Lab' project in which students in 9th through 12th grade will participate in the development of an outdoor learning laboratory to expand an existing animal science program.
- Washington - Parkview Elementary's 'Sustainable Agriculture through Aquaponics' project in which 5th graders will use an aquaponics system to rear salmon and goldfish and fertilize plants at the same time.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization based in Gainesville, Florida made up of Agriculture in the Classroom programs in 48 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, improve agricultural safety and enhance community vitality in rural America.

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