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**NAITCO TO SPREAD AGRICULTURAL LITERACY MESSAGE
TO MORE THAN 400 EDUCATORS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – More than 400 educators from around the country will learn how to use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference called “Agriculture Elevated” to be held June 24-26, 2020, at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, UT.

The National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) and Utah Agriculture in the Classroom program will hold three days of workshops showing pre-kindergarten through 12th grade teachers how to use agriculture to teach core subjects. It receives partial funding for the conference from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute for Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA)

In addition, conference participants will go on traveling workshops to learn about a robotic dairy, teaching gardens, wool production, and tart cherry farming—a signature Utah crop. They also will hear from keynote speakers including Nicole Jolly, producer of True Food TV, the web’s most watched channel dedicated to understanding the origins of our food, and Ann Vileisis, author of *Kitchen Literacy: How We Lost Knowledge of Where Food Comes From and Why We Need to Get it Back*.

Early registration for the conference is \$435 until April 15 (after April 15, registration is \$485). To register, please visit <https://naitconference.usu.edu/Register.cfm>. To reserve a hotel room, please visit <https://naitconference.usu.edu/Venue.cfm>.

CHS Foundation is once again offering scholarships to Pre-K-12 teachers who would like to attend the conference. The scholarship covers the cost of early registration of \$435. To apply for a CHS Foundation Scholarship, please visit <https://agclassroom.org/teacher/grants.cfm>. The deadline for scholarship applications is March 1. The conference will honor national teacher winners and a national Agriculture Advocate winner for the innovative ways they use agriculture to teach students about this important industry.

“What makes our national conference unique is the commitment to move it around the country so teachers can experience agriculture in different states and learn how to use it as a teaching tool,” says Will Fett, president of NAITCO and executive director of the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation. “This year we will get a chance to learn about Utah agriculture and participate in workshops, awards programs, and traveling workshops that show how effectively agriculture can be used in formal classroom instruction.”

“The Utah Agriculture in the Classroom team is honored and excited to welcome educators from around the country to learn about Utah’s unique agriculture,” said Denise Stewardson, director of Utah AITC. “Our state’s high elevation and semi-arid climate challenge our farmers and ranchers to use the latest technology and resources in order to be successful.”

NAITCO and Nutrien, Ltd. will announce new developments with its online games called “Journey 2050” and “Farmers 2050,” which allow players to become virtual farmers who make day-to-day decisions about growing food sustainably.

Of the more than 400 conference participants expected to register, about half are teachers from around the country, many of whom received scholarships provided by CHS Foundation, Inc. to cover their conference registrations. In addition, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture will honor teachers and agriculture industry educators for using agriculture as an effective teaching tool as part of its White-Reinhardt Fund for Education program. The winner of the National Grange’s Agriculture Advocate Award will also be recognized at the conference.

A big “thank you” to national conference sponsors USDA/NIFA, CHS Foundation Inc., Nutrien Ltd., American Egg Board, Arkansas Farm Bureau, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, Ardent Mills, Bayer, Corteva Agriscience, Dairy Farmers of America, Dairy West, Farm Credit, Ford Motor Co., Iowa Farm Bureau, Protect the Harvest, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Utah Farm Bureau, Utah State University Extension, and others. Their support keeps registration costs low so more teachers can attend.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization representing Agriculture in the Classroom programs in most of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its mission is to educate pre-K—12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture by providing them with educational resources, grant opportunities, awards programs, and a national conference that demonstrate how agriculture can be used to effectively teach core subject areas.

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