



19 River Oaks Way
Palm Coast, FL 32137
T: (352) 745-0246

W: www.agclassroom.org
E: lisa.gaskalla@naitco.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOV. 2, 2018

AGRICULTURE-RELATED CLASSROOM PROJECTS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO RECEIVE CHS FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDING

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade will learn their reading, writing, math, science and social studies lessons through agricultural-related activities thanks to 15, \$500 grants awarded by the CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO).

Fifteen projects involving biofuel development, classroom embryology initiatives, innovative aquaponics and hydroponics growing systems were selected for funding from more than 90 highly competitive applications submitted.

“We proudly support teachers around the country who have embraced using agricultural concepts as an effective way to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more as these grant-funded projects indicate,” said Will Fett, president of NAITCO and executive director of Iowa Foundation for Agriculture Literacy (IALF). “We appreciate the funding we receive from the CHS Foundation to offer our teachers this opportunity.”

“The CHS Foundation is committed to developing ag leaders for lifelong success,” said Nanci Lilja, CHS Foundation president. “The projects supported through Classroom Grants introduce agriculture concepts to students at a young age, so they can explore and experience all agriculture has to offer.”

The projects funded will reach more than 3,500 students in kindergarten through 12th grade around the country and will cover a variety of subjects. They are:

- **Florida** – Celebration Kids Village’s *Egg-cited Little Farmers: Fostering Agricultural Literacy through Poultry Embryology in the Classroom* will help students in kindergarten through 4th grade develop a concrete and long-lasting knowledge of embryology, nutrition, agriculture and the overall process of food production.
- **Georgia** – Midway Hills Primary School’s *Growing Gardens, Growing Minds* will use school gardens as learning laboratories for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade to help them engage in reading, writing, math and science lessons through hands-on gardening activities.
- **Georgia** – Central High School’s *Fueling the Future* will allow students in 9th through 12th grade to learn how to create biofuels in the classroom and develop an understanding of the importance of using different agricultural products to do so.
- **Iowa** – Grant Ragan Elementary School’s *Suburban Farmers Raising Chickens* will teach students in kindergarten through 2nd grade about the life cycle of a chicken, and tie reading, writing, math and science lessons to the activity.
- **Louisiana** - NSU Elementary Lab School’s *Just Keep Swimming and Sprouting: Aquaponics in Action, Growing Fish and Food* will allow students in kindergarten through 5th grade to understand the recycling that occurs in nature, learn how to grow food without land and participate in science, agriculture, math, and business lessons as part of the process.

- **Minnesota** - Pierz Healy High School's *Creating a Pollinator-Friendly Courtyard* will allow students in 6th through 12th grade to learn about the importance of pollinators in agriculture by planting and maintaining a school-wide pollinator garden.
- **New Jersey** – Mount Vernon School's *Native Pollinator Garden and Berry Patch* will involve the school's 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in an expanded raised bed garden initiative to educate them about the source of their food and encourage healthy eating habits.
- **New Mexico** - Roy Municipal School's *Growing Larger Futures* will teach 3rd, 4th and 5th graders how to grow food using traditional, hydroponics and aquaponics growing methods, and compare the efficacy of the different growing systems.
- **Oregon** – Tillamook High School's *Embryology to Products: The Whole Chicken Lifecycle* will educate students in kindergarten through 12th grade about the life cycle of chickens by allowing the older students to rear the chickens and educate the younger students about the process.
- **Pennsylvania** – Circle of Seasons School's *Raised Beds Garden Project* will help kindergarteners, 1st graders and 2nd graders learn how to grow fruits and vegetables using a raised bed growing system, and participate in reading, germination and plant biology lessons tied to the initiative.
- **Pennsylvania** – Tyrone Area High School's *Modeling Ruminant and Simple Stomachs* will allow high school students to learn more about ruminant and non-ruminant animals by using a model of a pig's stomach that will last longer and provide more details about the animal's digestive system.
- **South Carolina** – Calhoun Academy's *Cavalier Garden* will help kindergarteners learn how to grow winter vegetables in a school garden and participate in reading, writing and math lessons related to the gardening activities.
- **Texas** – Cactus Elementary School's *Community Garden Project Part 4* will use a vegetable garden, pollinator garden, greenhouse and aquaponics growing system to teach English language arts, social studies, technology and other subject areas.
- **Utah** - Excelsior Academy's *Thermophilic Compost Science* will teach middle school students how to compost various organic materials, and educate them about the chemical, physical, and biological changes involved in thermophilic composting.
- **Wisconsin** - Chippewa Falls Senior High School's *Chicken Embryology- It's Alive* project will educate high school students about the life cycle of chickens from incubating eggs in the classroom to rearing chicks after they have hatched.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization made up of Agriculture in the Classroom programs in 50 states including the District of Columbia 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. The CHS Foundation is focused on developing a new generation of agriculture leaders. It is achieving its goals through these strategic initiatives: advancing innovation in cooperative education, cultivating opportunity through university partnerships, growing high-impact youth leadership programs and accelerating potential for careers in ag. Together with our signature partners, we develop ag leaders for life. For more information on our programs go to www.chsinc.com/stewardship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LISA GASKALLA BY CALLING (352) 745-0246 OR EMAILING lisa.gaskalla@naitco.org