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Kansas students relate to agriculture through art

MANHATTAN, Kan. – The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and the Kansas Department of Agriculture announced the winners of the 2008 Post Card Art Contest on March 20 during the Kansas Ag Day celebration, which was held at the State Capitol Building in Topeka.

“This is a wonderful way for students to not only showcase their talent but also their understanding of the role agriculture plays in their daily lives,” said Cathy Musick, executive director of the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

More than 870 kindergarten through sixth grade students from 27 counties across the state entered this year’s contest, by designing a postcard around the theme “Science in Your Shopping Cart.” Artwork was judged on relevance to the theme, creativity, originality, use of color, use of space, and clarity of idea and image. A first prize winner was selected from each grade level along with one grand prize winner. Each first prize award recipient received a \$50 U.S. savings bond and the grand prize winner received a \$100 bond.

The winners were invited to attend the state Ag Day celebration at the Capitol where they had the opportunity to meet Kansas Lieutenant Governor Mark Parkinson and Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky who presented them with their award certificates and U.S. Savings bonds. They also toured the Capitol Building’s dome and learned about its history. The winners also received printed copies of their artwork on real postcards that they could mail to their families and friends.

This year’s winners are listed below with the hometowns:

- Kindergarten: Elizabeth Cullens, Olathe.
- First grade: Spencer Pelton, Wathena.
- Second grade: Claire Zanrybnicky, Hanover.
- Third grade: Oakley Melvin, Seneca.
- Fourth grade: Ashton Gray, Great Bend.
- Fifth grade: Ryann Bauman, Wathena.
- Sixth grade and grand prize: Becca Adcock, Cottonwood Falls.

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom has been hosting the contest since 1999. The winning entries from 2008 and previous years can be viewed on the Foundation’s Website at www.ksagclassroom.org.