

## **Press Release**

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## **Foundation Honors Teachers for Incorporating Agriculture into the Classroom**

**MANHATTAN, Kan.** – Agriculture and education are two very important components and priorities for the state of Kansas. It is still a rare thing, however, to find teachers who are integrating agricultural education into their classrooms, said Kristin Goin, Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) school assembly presenter and certified teacher.

KFAC, a Manhattan-based non-profit organization, is working to change that, however, by educating both students and teachers throughout the state about the importance of agriculture, said Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director.

Each year, the Foundation honors teachers who go the extra mile to instill a passion for learning about agriculture within their students. The KFAC Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year award recognizes one teacher annually who has successfully integrated agricultural education into his or her pre-existing curricula.

“Agriculture is one of the leading industries in Kansas and so many people’s lives are affected by it every day. Yet, there are still many people who do not have an appreciation for, or an understanding of how important it is,” Musick said.

The 2008 KFAC award recipient will be recognized in March during the Kansas Ag Day celebration at the State Capitol Building in Topeka. The honoree will also have the opportunity to choose between a \$1,500 voucher to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Costa Mesa, Calif., during June and a \$250 gift certificate to purchase agricultural education supplies for their classroom.

Agriculture and education both contribute to the wellbeing of Kansans. Agriculture is not only important to the economy, providing thousands of jobs within the state, but it also provides people with necessary food and clothing. The educational system, experienced by every Kansas child, is a logical place to introduce information about the importance of agriculture to the state, Musick said.

“The foundation believes that by providing teachers with the tools and resources necessary to teach students about the basics of agriculture – farm animals, crops and natural resources – the science behind it and the ways that it affects their daily lives, teachers can better connect Kansas’ classrooms to agriculture,” Musick said.

To assist teachers in achieving this goal, KFAC offers a variety of educational resources for teachers and students including teacher guides and lesson plans, student magazines and school assembly programs, she said, all designed with state curriculum standards in mind.

“Teaching agriculture in the classroom is more important now than ever because today's students have little to no involvement in the process of producing food,” said Joyce Troyer, 2007 KFAC Teacher of the Year award recipient.

Interested persons can nominate teachers they feel have done a good job of integrating agriculture into their classrooms by going to [www.ksagclassroom.org](http://www.ksagclassroom.org) and scrolling their mouse over the “Teacher Resources” link and clicking on “Rules and Application” under the “Teacher of the Year Award” option.

For more information about KFAC’s Teacher of the Year Award or other programs, contact the KFAC office at 785-532-7946 or [ksfac@webmail.ksu.edu](mailto:ksfac@webmail.ksu.edu).

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