

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **KFAC recognizes ag advocate challenge partners**

**MANHATTAN, Kan.** – The nonprofit organization Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) is kicking off an agriculture advocate challenge. The challenge is designed to raise funds for agriculture literacy programs targeted for Kansas students, their teachers, and their families.

Mid Kansas Cooperative Association (MKC) of Moundridge and ICM, Inc., of Colwich have joined KFAC in their mission of “Connecting Classrooms to Kansas Agriculture.” Both entities have provided \$5,000 each of seed money towards a \$60,000 fundraising campaign. Together they are challenging Kansas businesses with agriculture connections to participate in the challenge by making a donation to KFAC. The money raised will be used to maintain educational resources and create new delivery methods provided by KFAC.

“Mid Kansas Cooperative Association (MKC) is dedicated to communicating the ‘ag story’ to consumers throughout the state. We also believe that it is important for the agriculture story to be introduced at an early age when students begin forming their own views of the role of agriculture and that is why we have chosen to provide financial support to Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom,” said Dave Christiansen, MKC president and CEO.

Added Dave Vander Griend, president and CEO, ICM, Inc., “Sustaining agriculture through innovation has been our passion at ICM, and we’re very excited to support what the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) has been putting into action for more than 28 years – *innovatively connecting classrooms to Kansas agriculture*. ICM believes in the promise of agriculture through its ability to nourish us in the food and fiber we eat, supply our vehicles with homegrown and renewable transportation fuels, and show the huge role agriculture plays in maintaining a strong economy.

ICM is very supportive of KFAC discovering new ways over the years to integrate agricultural awareness into classrooms on a daily basis for Kansas students. It’s extremely important for our youth to benefit from these critical learning opportunities to understand how agriculture adds value, both domestically and globally, as well as ensuring sustainability for future generations.”

Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director, is pleased to add MKC and ICM, Inc. to their list of supporters. “We are excited about increasing our funding partnerships in order to maintain and expand our reach to Kansas students. It is our pleasure to work with businesses that have a vested interest in providing education about agriculture to Kansans.”

For more information on the 2010 agriculture advocate challenge, visit [www.ksagclassroom.org](http://www.ksagclassroom.org). KFAC is also on Facebook, simply search for Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

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*MKC Christiansen Musick and Baldwin.jpg: Dave Christiansen, Mid Kansas Cooperative Association president and CEO, left, Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director, center, and Cindy Baldwin, KFAC board of directors chair-elect. Courtesy photo.*



*ICM Vander Griend.jpg: Dave Vander Griend, president and CEO, ICM, Inc. Courtesy photo.*