

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ag foundation holds Cargill-sponsored learning opportunities for students

The 2009-10 school year marked the second year the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) partnered with Cargill Cares of Kansas City to offer hands-on school assemblies for students at urban Kansas schools. Through Cargill's commitment to educate urban Kansas youth about agriculture, a partnership with KFAC was fostered. After discussion, KFAC's school assembly program was believed to be a perfect fit to reach these students.

During the 2009-10 school year, seven hands-on assembly programs were held in Kansas City, Kan., schools. "Nearly 1,000 students learned how agriculture connects to their daily lives. It's great to see the students eyes light up when they see and touch the grains we bring to the schools. They also enjoy learning about responsible animal care as well as preservation of natural resources," said Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director. The assembly programs were also beneficial to teachers, who received educator bags filled with additional lesson plans and agricultural education resources.

Prior to the assembly offerings, agricultural education training was conducted for Cargill Cares volunteers, who also attended the assembly programs. By attending the assemblies, the Cargill Cares volunteers were able to connect with teachers and school administrators to make plans for future agricultural education classroom opportunities.

The KFAC hands-on school assembly program supports Kansas curricular standards in science, social sciences, mathematics, history and economics. It promotes crop and animal identification, problem-solving and active student participation while presenting students with information on Kansas farm animals, grains and oil seeds.

Discussions are underway to host Cargill-sponsored assemblies for schools in the Kansas City, Kan., area for the 2010-11 school year.

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information about KFAC, its curriculum materials or to become a member, call toll-free 1-866-759-8031 or visit KFAC on the web at www.ksagclassroom.org.



KFAC executive director Cathy Musick, right, explains different types of grains to students at Arbor Creek Elementary in Olathe.

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