

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KFAC hosts another successful summer course for Kansas teachers

HOWARD, Kan. - Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) recently hosted a two-day graduate course for Kansas teachers. The course entitled *Plants Have a Place in the Classroom* was held June 14 and 15 in Howard at the Rolling Prairie District Extension Office in Elk County. A field trip was taken to Wichita to the Sedgwick County Extension Office.

The course provided hands-on learning opportunities for teachers desiring to integrate plant activities into all classroom subjects, and incorporated workshop activities, demonstrations and tours into the class activities. Teachers were introduced to several areas of plant science, including what plants need to grow, soils, plant propagation, horticulture therapy, composting, vermiculture (worm farming), and entomology.

It is anticipated the experiences gained by the teachers during the course will enable them to integrate agriculture into all subjects during the upcoming school year and beyond. "I enjoy seeing the teachers' faces light up as they discover ways to teach their students about agriculture. They are so creative in how they incorporate agriculture into math, science, reading, social studies, music and art curriculum," said Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director.

The 1-credit hour graduate course was taught by Musick and Kansas State University faculty member Dr. Kevin Donnelly, professor of agronomy.

Scholarships provided by agriculture donors were available, which made the course an affordable option for all Kansas teachers. The 2010 scholarship donors include ICM, Inc., Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Dairy Commission, Midwest Dairy Association and several county conservation districts and county Farm Bureaus.

KFAC will offer another opportunity for Kansas teachers and community volunteers this winter. With Kansas Farm Bureau, KFAC will host the third annual "Be Ag-Wise" workshops across the state. The workshops will provide participants the opportunity to receive training for a variety of agriculture-based, hands-on learning labs; receive resource materials; share ideas; network with others; and practice their presentation skills.

To learn more about KFAC and its resources, visit the KFAC website at www.ksagclassroom.org or contact the office by phone (785) 532-7946 or by e-mail at kfac@ksu.edu.

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