

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 18, 2009

**For more information, contact:**

Cathy Musick, Executive Director  
Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom  
785-532-7946 (voice)  
*kfac@ksu.edu*

**Mueller Joins KFAC Staff**

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Ashley Mueller has joined the staff of the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) as a program assistant.

“We are very excited to have someone of Ashley’s caliber join our staff. She brings a strong education background as well as hands-on experience in agriculture and a desire to educate children about the importance of agriculture to our lives and economy,” said Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director.

Mueller, a Geneva, Neb. native, received her master of science degree from Purdue University in youth development and agricultural education in May and her bachelor of science degree in Food Science and Technology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2007. At Purdue University, she served as a graduate research assistant for the Cooperative Extension Service, where she assisted in planning and coordinating Extension events. During her undergraduate career, she worked as a biological lab assistant for the United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service in the Grain, Forage and Bio-energy Research Unit.

As part of the KFAC staff, Mueller will be involved in the day-to-day functioning of the KFAC office and will assist with the organization’s on-going projects, which provide agriculture-based curriculum materials and programming to school children and their teachers. Mueller is passionate about educating both children and their teachers about agriculture. Growing up in rural south-central Nebraska, she experienced the positive effects of agriculture first-hand in her community. She understands that many children and adults have not experienced the same opportunities and agriculture exposure she had.

“Agriculture is science, and I believe science is relatable, no matter a person’s background or life experiences. From the clothes we wear, the food we eat, to advancements in medicine, agriculture affects us all. It’s important that children and adults are educated in agriculture,” Mueller said. “Bringing agriculture into the classroom is essential in cultivating Kansas residents to be literate in agriculture. Imagine children sharing the information they learn from KFAC programs and assemblies with their parents, grandparents and community members. I’m looking forward to assisting the foundation in its efforts to have agriculture in every classroom, every day.”

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)(3) organization. Its office is located in Bluemont Hall on the Kansas State University campus. 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.ksaclassroom.org*.

###