

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walton teacher named ag foundation's teacher of the year

WALTON, Kan. – Carol Budde, a fifth-grade teacher at Walton 21st Century Rural Life Center, was recently named the 2010 Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC).

The KFAC Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year award recognizes teachers who instill a passion for learning about agriculture within their students. The Foundation honors one teacher annually who has successfully integrated agricultural education into his or her pre-existing curricula. Budde was honored with the award at the Kansas State Agriculture Day celebration on March 18 in Topeka, where she got to meet Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Josh Svaty.

Budde keeps her students busy with many projects, especially hands-on learning activities. Her students raise feeder pigs, work in the school greenhouse, and compost uneaten fruits and vegetables from lunchroom trays for greenhouse plants. “All of these projects provide countless opportunities for all types of students to gain knowledge that helps them with academics and in their daily lives, from teamwork to perseverance,” said Budde.

In addition to these projects, Budde employs several strategies to teach agriculture. A primary teaching method of hers is the integration of technology into lessons, which include Smart Board activities, student personal laptops and video clips from Discovery Education, Teacher Tube and You Tube.

“We are delighted to honor Carol for her work with students that increases their knowledge about agriculture,” said Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director. “She is definitely a role model for her peers.”

As KFAC's Teacher of the Year, Budde will attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) Conference which will be held in Baltimore this June. Her trip will be sponsored by High Plains Journal.

In addition to teaching, Budde, a Kansas State University graduate, currently serves on the Harvey County 4-H Program Development Committee and Extension Council, is a 4-H Ambassador Advisor and is a past officer and current member of the Harvey County Free Fair board.

The Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year award is named in honor of Janet Sims, who passed away in June 2007 from Lou Gehrig's disease. Sims, an educator herself, had served on

the KFAC board from November 2005 until her death. For more information about KFAC's Teacher of the Year Award or other programs, contact the KFAC office at 785-532-7946 or kfac@webmail.ksu.edu.

Pictures Attached



Carol Budde, left, was recently honored as the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's Teacher of the Year. Carol is pictured with Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Josh Svaty.



Carol Budde, left, KFAC's 2010 Teacher of the Year, works on a project with her students on the Walton Rural Life Center school grounds.