

## **Janet Sims Teacher of the Year Rules & Guidelines**

### **Who is eligible?**

Any district certified Kansas teacher currently engaged in integrating agricultural concepts into a **non**-vocational agriculture classroom setting at the K-12 grade levels.

### **How can applications be submitted?**

Kansas Agriculture in the Classroom contacts may nominate one outstanding teacher to receive the award. A letter of recommendation must accompany the nomination and convey a strong sense of the teacher's efforts to introduce agriculture information into his/her classroom. Applications must be postmarked by November 7, 2011. Application forms are available for download from the KFAC website or by calling the KFAC office. Self-nominations are accepted as well as contact nominations.

### **How will the selected teacher be recognized and awarded?**

The teacher of the year winner will be recognized during the March 2012 Ag Day festivities in Topeka. Additionally, he/she will choose between an all-expense paid trip to attend the 2012 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Loveland, Colorado, June 19-22, 2012, or a \$250 gift certificate to purchase agriculture education supplies for their classroom.

The winning teacher will have an opportunity to share his/her ideas during the Kansas Ag in the Classroom Summer Sessions and at the KFAC Annual Meeting if he/she so chooses. In addition, the winning teacher may also choose to serve on the KFAC education committee and assist with developing the programs of the foundation.

### **How will applications be evaluated?**

A panel of judges who are familiar with agriculture, education, and KFAC will evaluate all applications using the following criteria for selection.

### **Criteria for Selection**

Teachers must use agricultural information and/or materials within the classroom curriculum in an effort to assist students in learning the importance of agriculture. Learning activities may include but are not limited to: an understanding of agriculture's impact on individual lives, our state and national heritage, the environment, state and national security, and the economy. The winning teacher will have developed or utilized innovative, interdisciplinary lessons.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

### **25% Creativity and Utilization of Agricultural Information**

*The degree to which sound agricultural concepts have been infused into the classroom. Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning.*

### **25% Interdisciplinary Approach**

*The degree to which agricultural concepts have been included in a variety of subjects and disciplines. Value will be placed on the approach which teaches agriculture across the curriculum.*

### **25% Advancement of Educational Standards**

*The degree to which the nominee aligns agricultural learning activities with state and/or national or other established education standards.*

### **25% Student Impact**

*Evidence of nominee's impact on student attitudes and overall learning regarding agriculture.*