National Teach Ag Campaign

NEWS RELEASE

For more information:
Ellen Thompson
National Teach Ag Campaign, Project Director
ethompson.naae@uky.edu
Phone: (605) 350-3842

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUTURE AGRISCIENCE TEACHERS SELECTED TO ATTEND NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY IN SIOUX FALLS, SD

Twenty-three future agriscience teachers will participate in three days of professional development and networking as part of the 2016 National Teach Ag Day celebration. The participants, who are majoring in agricultural education at universities and colleges across the United States, were selected from a pool of nationwide candidates to participate in the Future Agriscience Teacher (FAST) symposium. The event will consist of professional development training, including instruction on inquiry-based teaching methods by National Agriscience Teacher Ambassadors, classroom management, and developing engaging lessons. In addition to professional development, attendees will engage with state and national agriculture and education leaders, tour a POET ethanol plant, and will be featured during the National Teach Ag Day live broadcast from POET headquarters in Sioux Falls, SD.

The FAST symposium is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative to raise awareness of the need to recruit and retain quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourage others to consider a career teaching agriculture, and celebrate the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in their schools and communities. The FAST symposium provides essential training and support to equip future agriscience teachers with 21st century science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills through practical application in the context of agriculture.

"Providing professional development and networking to preservice teachers is vital to the retention of agriculture teachers and future student success," said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director "These future agriscience teachers will be able to apply what they learn immediately in their teacher preparation program and eventually in their own classrooms."

The 23 FAST participants are: Ellie Rethmeier, Dordt College; Eric Koehlmoos, Kansas State University; Gwynn Simeniuk, Montana State University; Samantha Ludlam, Michigan State University; Renae Tokach, North Dakota State University; Hanna Minson, Oklahoma State University; Victoria Herr, Penn State University; George Dietrich, Penn State University; Kristianne Dowd, Rutgers University; Hanna Hartmann, South Dakota State University; Kasey Schmidt, South Dakota State University; Kassandra Niska, South Dakota State University; Abigail Marion, University of Florida; Shelby Ball, University of Florida; Tyler D'Angelo, University of Florida; Sara Chism, University of Kentucky; Mattison Sullivan, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Shelbie Rochel, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Abbey Weninger, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Brandon Thomas, West Virginia University; Kyle Kidwell, West Virginia University and Tiffany Harvey, West Virginia University.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators, funded by the CHS Foundation, DuPont Pioneer and Growth Energy as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The campaign is designed to raise an awareness of the need to recruit and retain quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourage others to consider a career teaching agriculture and celebrate the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in their schools and communities. For more information about the National Teach Ag Campaign, visit http://www.naae.org/teachag.

###