

NEWS RELEASE

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K-State agricultural education department addresses need for teachers

Manhattan, Kan. – Kansas State University’s Department of Communications and Agricultural Education is calling on students to help fill the growing number of open teaching positions in the state.

Recent statistics indicate a job placement rate at nearly 100 percent, with an annual average of 30 open teaching positions and only 12 graduates in the state. Graduates are also well prepared for careers outside the teaching profession.

“Whether you believe that the place for you is returning to the family farm, working in agricultural mechanics as a welder, attending a four-year degree majoring in education or agriculture, we would encourage you to take a look at the opportunities in agricultural education,” said Brandie Disberger, K-State agricultural education instructor. “But regardless of what you choose to do as your career, become an advocate for what Ag Ed is, because for many of you, it played a vital part in your high school career and beyond.”

In an effort to reach out to potential future teachers, the department has implemented Tagged to Teach Ag, a program that encourages current agricultural educators to identify students with the interest and skills to teach agriculture. Students take a photo with a “Tagged to Teach Ag” poster and share it on the department’s social media platforms.

In addition to considering a major in agricultural education, students are encouraged to identify others who share the talent and desire to teach.

“I’m sure you’ll be able to identify some potential teachers that maybe are you, or the person sitting next you, or a close friend from your own program, or perhaps someone else within your FFA district. Identify people that you think show those skills. Encourage them to consider agricultural education as a degree,” Disberger said.

To learn more about the program and profession, please contact Brandie Disberger at 785-532-1175 or bdis@ksu.edu.