

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ag foundation holds Cargill-sponsored learning opportunities for students

The 2008-09 school year marked the first year the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) partnered with Cargill to offer hands-on school assemblies for students at urban Kansas schools. Through Cargill's commitment to educate urban Kansas youth about agriculture, a partnership with KFAC was fostered. After discussion, KFAC's school assembly program was believed to be a perfect fit to reach these students.

During the 2008-09 school year, 10 hands-on assembly programs were held in Kansas City, Kan., schools. "Students were actively involved in assembly activities. It's great to see the 'light bulb' go on when they make the connection between grains, animals on the farm and food for their table," said Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director. The assembly programs were also beneficial to teachers, who received educator bags filled with additional lesson plans and agricultural education resources.

Prior to the assembly offerings, an agricultural education training was conducted for Cargill Cares volunteers, who also attended the assembly programs. By attending the assemblies, the Cargill Cares volunteers were able to connect with teachers and school administrators to make plans for future agricultural education classroom opportunities. "The volunteers enjoy going back to the classrooms to share information about agriculture. The students are also excited to learn about the agriculture careers held by the Cargill Cares members," added Musick.

The KFAC hands-on school assembly program supports Kansas curricular standards in science, social sciences, mathematics, history and economics. It promotes crop and animal identification, problem-solving and active student participation while presenting students with information on Kansas farm animals, grains and oil seeds.

Discussions are underway to host Cargill-sponsored assemblies for schools in the Kansas City, Kan., and Wichita areas for the 2009-10 school year.

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)(3) organization. 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.ksagclassroom.org.

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