



Kansas teachers learn to bring agriculture into the classroom

MANHATTAN, Kan. - July 2, 2013 -

Hands-on lesson plans, tours of agricultural operations and numerous resources are all part of a weeklong course 29 teachers attended in Manhattan, Kan. June 10-14. "Connecting Your Classroom to Kansas Agriculture," sponsored by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC), is a Kansas State University graduate credit opportunity for Kansas teachers interested in implementing agriculture into their curriculum.

The course is designed to provide teachers with a broad understanding of our state's number one industry.

"With one in five of our students going into a career related to agriculture, the Foundation believes it is important to expose them to the possibilities by helping teachers discover agriculture and its exciting outreach," said Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director.

Using a hands-on approach, the teachers experienced lesson plans and activities geared toward agriculture. Agricultural professionals gave them the opportunity to experience agriculture first hand.

"The collaboration between teachers from across the state to see how others are integrating agriculture into their classrooms was very interesting," Rhonda Gierhan, a teacher at Clay Center Community Middle School in Clay Center, Kan., said. "There were so many great ideas. This was the best college course I've attended."



Rhonda Gierhan, a teacher at Clay Center Community Middle School, watches popcorn pop over a candle during the 2013 KFAC Summer Graduate Course in Manhattan, Kan.

The 29 teachers received tuition scholarships provided by ICM, Inc., Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Dairy Commission, Midwest Dairy Council and several County Conservation Districts and County Farm Bureau Associations.



The participants of the 2013 Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom Summer Graduate Course at the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, Kan.

Back row from left to right: Pat Boeh, Rhonda Gierhan, Lori Potts, Carrie Riggs, Karen Grockett, Mollie Wold, Christine Hecke, Peggy Hennick, Carrie Ellis, Steve Harbstreit (K-State), Cris Wilson

Row two from left to right: Rex Pippenger, Becky Macklin, Angie Baker, Kathy Egbert, TJ Babb, Tammy Jirak, Sheri Gloss, Tammy Rieth, Elaine Lott, Kim Vanatta

Front row from left to right: Joe Curran, Alyssa Schmitt, Christine Herl, Stacy Sandmann, Arlene Brimm, Rebecca Scheck, Sandy Luder, Dianna Deniston, Barb McCaffree, Cathy Musick (KFAC) and Sheridan Wimmer (KFAC)

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. KFAC was founded in 1982 as part of a nationwide initiative to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

For more information, visit www.ksagclassroom.org or phone (785) 320-4350.

###

**Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in The
Classroom**

Sheridan Wimmer
Program Assistant

ksfac@ksu.edu

**Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in The
Classroom**

Cathy Musick
Executive Director

ksfac@ksu.edu