

FOUNDATION on the FIRST

August 2017



Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation on the First Newsletter

Welcome to Foundation on the First!

We appreciate your interest and support of Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Our programs and resources would not be possible without the support of our generous donors. A complete listing of our [agriculture advocates can be found here](#).

New wheat genetics lesson plans in final stages



For the past two years, KFAC has been working on developing new wheat genetics lesson plans as a part of a National Science Foundation grant received by Dr. Jesse Poland in the K-State Department of Plant Pathology (Missed that? [READ about the grant here](#)). Elementary and high school teachers from across Kansas have been working to write lesson plans for grades K-12 that would introduce them to plant science and genetics using wheat and the careers available in the field.

In total, 18 lesson plans will be completed and pilot tested by teachers in the state by fall 2018. The writing teams met in Manhattan on July 24 for a tour of the Kansas Wheat building, to review the evaluations completed by pilot test teachers and to incorporate the suggestions and changes submitted in the pilot testing period.

The final version of these new lesson plans will be available beginning spring 2018. Several involving fall planting will be offered this fall (2017). Lesson plan writers will present these lesson plans at the National Agriculture in the Classroom conference in 2018 as well as during the KFAC summer conference tentatively scheduled for June 6, 2018.

KFAC helps with national conference hosted by Kansas Department of Agriculture



KFAC recently assisted with the youth program as part of the North American Agri-Marketing Officials (NAAMO) conference held July 10-13 in Manhattan. The conference was hosted by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), a KFAC Agriculture Advocate.

On the first day, students had the opportunity to visit the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center for a tour and to learn how to make pancakes. They then went onto the Insect Zoo at the K-State Gardens and ended their day at the KSU Vet Med center.

On the second day the group traveled to the Milford Nature Center and Fish Hatchery. The afternoon was spent at Hildebrand Dairy where ice cream and milk samples were tried by all. It was a great treat for a hot afternoon!

Thank you to our partner, KDA, for inviting us to participate with this fun group of kids!



New Giving Opportunity

KFAC was recently named a Thrivent Choice organization as part of the Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars® program.



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Are you a member of Thrivent Financial who's eligible to direct Choice

Dollars? Choice Dollars charitable outreach funds can make a world of difference to our organization as we work together to grow our resources for Kansas teachers. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable funds. KFAC would be honored to be your "choice!"

Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice®" after the prompt.

[Visit the website to learn more about this program.](#)

Mark your calendars for #GivingTuesday!

KFAC will once again participate in the #GivingTuesday movement this year taking place Tuesday, Nov. 28th. This will be the second year KFAC has participated. The day marks a global day of giving, following the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday.

KFAC participated in 2016 and raised nearly \$4,500. This year's goal is to identify a match donor to help bring that number to \$8,000.

**#GIVING
TUESDAY**

Interested in participating or becoming a match donor? Contact the KFAC office for more information at (785) 320-4350 or ksfac@ksu.edu.

Micro-Credentialing: New professional development opportunities for Kansas teachers

There is a new form of professional development in the education world that is quickly becoming a popular form of learning for teachers. Micro-credentialing allows teachers to choose what kind of professional development they need, when they need it and the best format for them to receive it.

KFAC will be working with the K-State College of Education to see how our workshops, summer institutes and other learning opportunities for teachers can fit into the micro-credentialing opportunity in an effort to stay relevant to Kansas teachers.

To learn more, [read this post on the K-State College of Education "EdCats" blog.](#)

You can also read more about Micro-Credentialing in [this article from the ASCD Education Update publication.](#)

Agri-Tag

This year we celebrate KFAC's 35th anniversary! We greatly appreciate your support for Kansas Agriculture Literacy through your purchase of our speciality tag!



Great goals continue with your help: Tag your friends, family & neighbors to show them how great supporting agriculture literacy can be! This year we have a goal to double the number of agri-tags on Kansas roads and highways and we need your help! We have increased the numbers, but haven't reached our goal of doubling yet! If you or someone you know are interested in getting one, please visit your county treasurer's office.

For an annual tax-deductible donation of \$35, you can help further KFAC's mission of connecting classrooms to Kansas agriculture. The agri-tag is the only agriculture-related speciality tag in the state. Join us in promoting Kansas' number one industry - agriculture!

Learn more: [Agri-Tag](#)

Water Flows: Kansas Grows

2017-18 School-year theme announced

The 2017-2018 KFAC school-year theme is Water Flows: Kansas Grows. This theme will highlight the importance of water in agriculture, including growing crops and livestock. To accompany this theme, teachers and students can access our Awesome Aqua: What to Know About H₂O kids magazine and water lesson plans and activities. In addition, the KFAC Natural Resources Educator's Guide is a perfect fit for background information and facts. [You can order and view our available resources here.](#)

The 2018 bookmark art contest that is open to all K-6 grade students will also follow this theme. The deadline to submit entries is Feb. 2, 2018. [The application is available on the KFAC website now.](#)

All of the water resources for Water Flows: Kansas Grows can be found on the KFAC website by September 1st.

www.ksagclassroom.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendar with these important dates:

Aug. 21 - K-State fall Semester begins
Sept. 8-17 - Kansas State Fair (come see us at the Agriland display!)
Oct. 12 - K-State College of Education Symposium, Manhattan
Oct. 19 - KFAC Board of Directors meeting, Manhattan
Oct. 20 - Lawrence School District A+STEM in-service workshop
Nov. 16 - KFAC Annual Meeting (tentatively), Manhattan
Nov. 28 - #GivingTuesday (more info to come!)

STAY CONNECTED:

