

# FOUNDATION ON THE FIRST

December 2018



**Kansas  
Foundation for  
Agriculture in the  
Classroom**

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## **Annual Meeting**

The 2018 KFAC Annual Meeting was held on November 9th at the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center. Bill Wood, KFAC Board Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for continuing to promote agriculture. Cathy Musick recognized our donors in attendance for their years of support. Briana Jacobus presented an update on the annual work of KFAC and the improvements made to our social and website presents.

Our 2019 Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year, Nancy Smith, presented on her incorporate of agriculture into her classroom. We also heard presentations from the three 2019 Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Excellence in Teaching award winners, Karisa Cowan, Amber Kriley and Melinda Littrell. The Golden Apple for outstanding service was awarded to Amy Langvardt. Langvardt is a long-time board member and have provided years of leadership to KFAC. Retiring board members, Amy Langvardt and Jessica Baetz-Caylor were recognized for their years of service. Both were members of our education committee and will be greatly missed.



## **Agri-tag**

Currently, we have over 1,000 Agri-tags on the road! Be a "driving" force to double the message of agricultural literacy with these moving billboards. If you or someone you know are interested in getting an Agri-tag, 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 specialty tag in the state. Join us in promoting Kansas' number one industry - agriculture! [Click here for more information!](#)



## Giving Opportunities

IRA withdrawals made directly to charity that meet all the requirements are excluded from the tax-payers adjusted gross income, thus avoiding the income tax that would otherwise be owed on the IRA withdrawal. In effect, the withdrawal is a tax free “rollover” rather than a charitable deduction. Such treatment means that taxpayers who don’t itemize deductions (a vast majority of taxpayers under provisions of the new 2018 Federal tax law) can still receive a tax benefit from their generosity. In addition, since these withdrawals reduce adjusted gross income, they may help donors, avoid or reduce income taxes on Social Security benefits, avoid higher Medicare premiums and avoid surtaxes on net investment income.

Plus, to top it off, Charitable IRA Rollovers count toward the account owner’s IRA required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. That’s a lot of potential tax benefits! You can probably tell from this rather extensive list that spending time with your tax advisor should be a priority in order to determine the extent of these benefits for you personally, and in order to coordinate your RMD with any Charitable IRA Rollovers you might choose to do.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



## Donor Feature



This month's Donor Feature is Cargill. Cargill works alongside farmers, producers, manufacturers, retailers, governments, and other organizations to fulfill their purpose to nourish the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. Their Kansas headquarters are located in Wichita.

Visit their website at <https://www.cargill.com>.

## November Wrap-Up

November was a great month of reflection at KFAC. We presented grant proposals to multiple groups across the state to keep funding coming in. We traveled to a few conferences to present materials. Our favorite part of the month was our Annual Meeting where our board of directors,

## Lesson Plan Feature

**BIOPLASTIC PACKING PEANUTS**

**Overview**  
Packing peanuts are made from plant starch found in the seed of grain sorghum. Students will be able to learn about different levels of packing peanuts while conducting fun science experiments. This lesson takes a look at how packing peanuts relate to environmental issues and our lives.

**Objectives**

1. Compare and contrast biodegradable and non-biodegradable resources.
2. Label the plant parts of grain sorghum.
3. Discuss pros and cons of environmental choices in our everyday lives.
4. Students will identify the part of the grain sorghum seed that is used to create a packing peanut.

**Background Information**  
Packing peanuts were introduced in 1965. Approximately 85% of a packing peanut's volume is air. There are two types of packing peanuts: biodegradable and non-biodegradable. The biodegradable type are starch based and break down easily. At postal stores they come in different colors including green, white and pink. These different colors represent the different types of packing peanuts. The white peanuts are made up of at least 70% non-recycled materials and are the most common. A green color indicates that at least 70% of the peanut's content is recycled material. When a chemical to reduce static cling has been added to packing peanuts, they will have a pink color. Non-biodegradable packing peanuts are made from styrofoam.

**Suggested Grade Level:** 4th-5th  
**Time:** 1 hour and 30 minutes  
**Subjects:** Science

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Our Bioplastic Packing Peanuts lesson plan is for fourth through sixth graders. Students will identify the part of the grain sorghum seed that is used to create a packing peanut and discuss environmental choices of our everyday lives. [Click here to visit the full lesson plan!](#)

sponsors and teachers came together to celebrate accomplishments. We are so proud of all of our teachers winners this year. If you haven't already, go to our website and check out their individual teacher features.

Briana and Cathy

