

National Teach Ag Campaign

2525 Harrodsburg Road, Suite 200

Lexington, KY 40504

859-967-2892 | www.naae.org/teachag

NEWS RELEASE

For more information:

Andrea Fristoe

Program Manager

National Association of Agricultural Educators

afristoe.naae@uky.edu

Phone: 859-967-2895

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FOURTEEN FUTURE AGRICULTURE TEACHERS SELECTED TO SERVE AS NATIONAL TEACH AG AMBASSADORS

The National Teach Ag Campaign is pleased to announce its selection of 14 future agriculture teachers to serve as the 2020-2021 National Teach Ag Ambassadors. The selected ambassadors will begin their training this summer to become advocates for agricultural education at the 93rd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, October 28-31. These students will represent the National Teach Ag Campaign at the convention as they encourage high school students who stop by the Teach Ag booth to consider careers as agriculture teachers. The ambassadors will engage with students, teachers, and stakeholders who visit the booth to develop a cohort of current and future agriculture teachers. The ambassadors will keep in contact with these individuals throughout their year of service through electronic communications in order to inspire the next generation of leaders, problem solvers, entrepreneurs and agriculturalists.

The National Teach Ag Ambassador Program was developed as an effort to address the current, nationwide high demand for agriculture teachers. The need for agriculture teachers in the United States is the result of retirements, current program growth, new programs opening, and current teachers who leave the profession to explore other opportunities. The ambassadors work to promote the need for high-quality and diverse agriculture teachers while at National FFA Convention and throughout the following year at the state and local levels.

The ambassadors will use a variety of opportunities, such as state and local conferences and camps, to encourage high school and postsecondary students to consider a career in teaching agriculture. They will also advocate for the agricultural education profession by meeting with stakeholders and leaders in their states. The ambassadors will also utilize social media, emails, and other digital platforms to reach a broader audience to address the national demand for agriculture teachers. As National Teach Ag Ambassadors, these preservice educators will also build their own professional networks, develop leadership and communications skills, and acquire new knowledge and pedagogical techniques that they will be able to use in their future careers as agriculture teachers.

“Over the last decade the Teach Ag Ambassadors have interacted with more than 10,000 future agriculture teachers,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director. “The ambassadors are in the unique position of connecting with and inspiring young people to pursue their passion to make a difference by teaching agriculture.”

The 14 National Teach Ag Ambassadors for the 2020-2021 academic year are John Bazemore, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Morgan Duenke, Northwest Missouri State University; Brock Fox, Southwest Minnesota State University; Amador Gonzales, New Mexico State University; Elena Gonzales, California State University-Fresno; Kathryn Lampi, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Lisandra Mejia, North Carolina State University; Zach Mills, University of Tennessee at Martin; Madeleine Musick, Oklahoma State University; Tyler Noyes, Montana State University; Grant Sanchez, Purdue University; Jordan Stanford, Stephen F. Austin State University; Renee Stillwell, Delaware Valley University; and Haley Talaski, Michigan State University.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Funding for the National Teach Ag Campaign is provided by the CHS Foundation, Corteva Agriscience™, Growth Energy, and BASF as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The campaign is designed to raise an awareness of the need to recruit and retain high quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourage others to consider a career as an agriculture teacher, and celebrate the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in our schools and communities. For more information about the National Teach Ag Campaign, visit <http://www.naae.org/teachag>.



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