



AGRISCIENCE

# 'Lead to Change' 2022 Winners





## Farm to Fork: Teaching Kids about Where their Food Comes From

*Iowa*

Many children in our communities don't know where their food comes from – some think it magically appears on grocery shelves! So much food is produced in Iowa that we feel the community should know how food gets from the farm to their forks.

We will lead programming at our schools using a variety of fun activities to teach students where their favorite foods come from and how they are made. We will also have a booth at the county fair to share this important information. Our goal is to educate as many kids as possible in a fun way.



# Got Worms?

*Iowa*

There is a lack of awareness among the public about the importance of recycling biodegradable waste, which can be used to produce valuable nutrients for gardens. To teach people about the importance of food waste management, we will install a vermi-composting system in our community garden and collect food waste from our schools.

We will also educate K-5 students and their families about the process and relevance of composting by creating compost systems at nine elementary schools in our district.





# Find your Future in Agriculture: Career Exploration

Iowa

To help youth understand the wide scope of careers in agriculture, we will host a Find Your Future in Agriculture Career Fair.

Through this event, youth will learn more about ag career opportunities by engaging with a variety of professionals representing industries such as commodity groups, precision ag, co-ops, ag insurance, ag and biosystems engineers, equipment dealers, vegetable gardeners, seed companies, livestock producers, and agronomists, more.



# Nurture Natives

## *Maryland*

Through our Nurture Natives project, our team will reduce the number of invasive trees within our community. We will support local farmers and nurseries by educating youth on the importance of biodiversity; increase the number of native trees and pollinators by hosting native tree drives; and educate customers by providing local nurseries with native tree guides.

Our passion for biodiversity comes from a sincere desire to increase awareness of the harmful effects invasive species have on agriculture and to bridge the gap between suppliers and customers within our community.





# Composting in East Pottawattamie, Iowa

*Iowa*

Most residents in East Pottawattamie County do not know what composting is or how it can benefit the environment. They also do not realize how easy it is to construct a composter and become part of the solution.

We will make different styles of compost and place each type on the fairground beds in order to educate our youth and the greater community. We will also host workshops prior to the fair to show kids what composters are and how they can compost at home.

Compost can be used in family gardens, or in our case, the flower beds at the fairgrounds.



## Lots to Plots: Building a Bridge to Engage Teens in Agriculture

### *Massachusetts*

Although agriculture has deep roots in Massachusetts, this is changing as many areas of our state are being developed; 40% of residents live in a food desert without consistent access to fresh fruits and vegetables. We are excited to address this issue through the 'Lots to Plots' program.

We feel it is our responsibility to use the knowledge we have gained through 4-H to help teens learn how to grow a small portion of their own food. We will work to develop and teach a series workshops to create a welcoming environment for non-4-H teens to learn. The goal is to replicate this program and offer it across our state in the future.





## C.H.A.R.M.S - College Hill Agriculture Resource Management

### *Ohio*

As 4-H Aiken High School student-leaders, we're taking on the challenge of growing food security in and around the Greater Cincinnati area.

Aiken C.H.A.R.M. stands for College Hill Agriculture Resource Management. Each C.H.A.R.M. is a handmade wooden clover with a QR code that can be scanned with a phone, which links to a multilingual video detailing how a particular place in our community contributes to greater food security.





# The Reality of Ag

*North Carolina*

The Reality of Ag project aims to increase agricultural awareness among middle and high school youth. Phase one will include a 'Reality of Ag' fair that identifies specific ways in which agriculture affects daily living, while phase two will implement classroom and agricultural curricula with local schools, libraries and other youth-serving groups. We will also host an agribusiness career fair during this phase.

The third and final phase will consist of evaluations, a share-fair for youth to share knowledge gained through the program, and a closing banquet using local farmers' produce that highlights how agriculture affects our community.



# Sustainable Grazing and Pasture Management

## *Missouri*

In Southeast MI, no one county can grow the same grass without having a variable outcome. Our goal is to find out why and how in order to enhance our community's fields.

We will do this by researching and evaluating the impacts of different experiments on the environment by conducting soil testing. By working with local farmers along with a variety of other partners who have historical data and expertise, we can gather information to share with the public.





## Bugging Out with WI 4-H

### *Wisconsin*

The decreasing pollinator population in Wisconsin is likely to affect our food supply, which will impact every part of agriculture and all consumers.

We will work with a horticulture educator to provide an online learning experience where our team teaches others how to make pollinator kits. We will also increase awareness and interest in pollinators by raising monarch butterflies. With efforts like ours keeping the pollinator populations growing, we hope never to see a future without them.



# Louisiana Coastal Restoration

## *Louisiana*

In southern Louisiana, we battle environmental issues caused by events such as hurricanes, floods, saltwater intrusion, subsidence and sea-level rise, all of which lead to coastal erosion. This is the wearing away of land or the removal of coastal wetland, beach or dune sediments by wave action, tidal currents, wave currents and drainage.

To combat this issue, we will plant various grasses and trees to reduce land loss. This will encourage land growth, reduce the impacts of subsidence and keep the coastline from washing away.





## Bringing Local Agriculture Businesses to the Forefront in Our Community

### *Ohio*

Within Morrow County, Ohio, there is a wide array of small agricultural businesses. We often call them the county's best kept secrets, and that's where the problem lies.

We want to help the public understand what these businesses have to offer the community, which is why we will conduct a local agriculture business fair. All local small businesses related to agriculture will be invited to participate, including youth-run businesses. Finally, we will create a directory of these businesses to be highlighted online.





Congratulations!