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Contact:

Erin Glarner – America's Farmers Grow Rural Education – 314-694-2159

Eric White, Weber Shandwick – 312-988-2237

Shelly Hammons, Daviess County Public Schools – 270-852-7000

DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AWARDED \$25,000 GRANT TO ENHANCE STEM CURRICULUM WITH THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL FARMERS

By Working with Farmers, America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Program, Sponsored by the Bayer Fund, Awarded \$2.3 Million in Grants to Strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education in Rural Schools

- **America's Farmers Grow Rural Education \$25,000 grant will allow the Daviess County Public Schools district to fully implement Next Generation Science Standards in grades 3-5 classrooms at all DCPS elementary schools. Schools from across the country were nominated and selected by farmers to receive STEM grants through Grow Rural Education.**
- **Grow Rural Education has more than \$18 million in grants to over 1,000 rural public school districts since 2011.**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – In early 2019, America's Farmers Grow Rural Education, sponsored by the Bayer Fund, partnered with local farmers to nominate rural schools and awarded more than \$2.3 million in grants to enhance their science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs. Because area farmers answered the call, Grow Rural Education has awarded the Daviess County Public Schools district with a \$25,000 grant.

A check presentation ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Meadow Lands Elementary School, 3500 Hayden Road. Those in attendance will include MLES Principal Kevin Lowe; DCPS federal grants coordinator Shelly Hammons; and Kirby Green, representing Bayer U.S. / Crop Science. Other guests of honor will include six members of the Daviess County agribusiness community: Gerald Boswell, Nancy McCormick, Edna Boswell, Charles Bratcher, Kenneth Ebelhar and Aaron Boswell, whose nomination of DCPS made this grant award possible. Our media partners are invited to attend this ceremony. Teams of students and teachers will demonstrate their skills by creating pollinators in a challenge game as MLES cheerleaders and school mascot Hip Hopper cheer them on!

DCPS is one of the many schools and districts across the country that has benefited from the Grow Rural Education program. For each grant-winning school, teachers, students and, oftentimes, community

members develop plans to create more engaging and innovative STEM programs. Grow Rural Education grants have helped schools purchase an array of STEM-related materials, such as augmented-reality sandboxes, weather forecasting and robotics equipment. DCPS will use the Grow Rural Education funds to support STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education in our schools, with a specific focus on full implementation of Next Generation Science Standards for grades 3-5 in the 12 DCPS elementary schools.

“America’s Farmers Grow Rural Education is a unique program because farmers play an important role throughout the process, from nominating schools to selecting the grant winners,” said Al Mitchell, President, Bayer Fund. “With the incredible support of local farmers, countless grant-winning schools have shared with us how Grow Rural Education funds have made their STEM programs more engaging and, in several instances, positively impacted test scores.”

To qualify for a Grow Rural Education grant, farmers nominated a school or school district to compete for a merit-based grant of either \$10,000 or \$25,000. School districts that were nominated then submitted a grant application describing their STEM-focused project. Grow Rural Education’s Farmer Advisory Council, consisting of approximately 30 farmer leaders from across the country, reviewed the finalist applications and selected the winning school districts, including DCPS.

Since Grow Rural Education began in 2011, it has awarded more than \$18 million to more than 1,000 schools in rural communities across the United States. To view a complete list of winners or to learn more about the America’s Farmers Grow Rural Education program, visit AmericasFarmers.com or follow along on Facebook at facebook.com/AmericasFarmers.

About America’s Farmers

The America’s Farmers campaign highlights the importance of modern U.S. Agriculture through communications and community outreach programs that partner with farmers to impact rural America. To learn more, visit America’s Farmers at www.AmericasFarmers.com.

About the Bayer Fund

The Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the overall health and wellbeing in communities where farmers and Bayer employees live and work. Visit the Bayer Fund at www.monsantofund.org.

For more information, contact Lora Wimsatt, Daviess County Public Schools public information officer 270-852-7000 ext. 215 lora.wimsatt@daviess.kyschools.us