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Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest Entries Accepted Through June 6

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Entries are being accepted for the eighth annual Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest, sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas. Applicants may be any school, early childhood education facility, or alternative learning environment that had a school garden during the 2020-2021 school year or is planning to start a garden in the 2021-2022 school year.

“School gardens are valuable educational tools that help students develop healthy eating habits, learn about Arkansas agriculture, and participate in hands-on learning,” said Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture. “We are grateful for the generosity of Farm Credit and their continued support of this program.”

Entries for the contest will be accepted through June 6, 2021, and can be found at <https://www.cognitofirms.com/ArkansasAgriculture1/ArkansasGrownSchoolGardenOfTheYearContest2021>. Winners will be announced at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

“As a farmer-owned cooperative, we are excited to continue our support of teachers and projects that engage Arkansas students in food production and agricultural sustainability. Through these partnerships, we can ensure that the valuable role of Arkansas agriculture remains top-of-mind for the next generation,” said AgHeritage Farm Credit Services President & CEO, Greg Cole, on behalf of the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas.

Applicants are eligible to apply for the following categories:

- Best Start-up School Garden Proposal - \$500
- Best Education Based School Garden - \$500
- Best Harvest Partnership School Garden - \$500
- Best Community Collaboration School Garden - \$500
- Best Overall School Garden - \$1000
- Champion of School Garden Sustainability - \$1000

For more information about Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest or the Arkansas Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program contact Hanna Davis, Arkansas Department of Agriculture State School Garden Manager, at hanna.davis@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens

of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Farm Credit supports rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services, today and tomorrow. It has been fulfilling its mission of helping rural America grow and thrive for more than a century with the capital necessary to make businesses successful and by financing vital infrastructure and communication services.

