



In honor of National FFA Week February 17th-24th, we have awarded several grants to local FFA chapters in partnership with Land O'Lakes and CoBank. Below is a summary of those grants. We are proud to support these chapters and the young men and women that have an interest in agriculture. It is a small way that we can give back to the communities that support Midwest Farmers Cooperative and a way to support the future of agriculture. Look for some updates each day next week on our website, facebook page and Twitter account.

Waverly:

The Waverly FFA Chapter received \$1,500 from Midwest Farmers Cooperative grant to be used to support Washington Leadership Conference. Waverly FFA members have the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to participate in FFA Washington Leadership Conference and currently five students are planning to attend. If more than two members chose to attend, the chapter advisor will attend, but must pay the cost for herself. This grant will pay for Mrs. Spath to attend Washington Leadership Conference with her students.

Ashland Greenwood:

The Ashland– Greenwood FFA chapter received a \$1,500 Midwest Farmers Cooperative grant to help them purchase grow towers. A grow tower is an advanced form of hydroponics. This project helps students receive a hands on experience with crops plus learn how to manage their time, develop a work ethic and improve their communication skills.

The Career Academy:

Lincoln Public Schools, The Career Academy received \$1,100 to support Seeing Is Believing through the Midwest Farmers Cooperative Grant. This project was implemented to give students an understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the animals they are studying. This grant will help purchase models for the classroom and for units of instruction in digestion, reproduction, structure and muscle development.

Conestoga:

The Conestoga FFA Chapter received a \$1,000 grant through Midwest Farmers Cooperative to be used to help fund a tower garden growing system. The hydroponic system would be able to further educate the students. The system utilizes new vertical farming technology to minimize resource use and maximize yield. This grant helps the chapter take a step in updating their resources and giving them new opportunities.

Auburn:

The Auburn FFA Chapter received \$2,000 through the Midwest Farmers Cooperative grant to be used towards "Putting the Science into Animal Science." This grant will help the chapter hatch eggs and track the embryo development process. They also plan to conduct feed trials and track chick growth rate. They also are going to buy a kit to learn poultry anatomy, breeds, meat cuts and evaluate egg quality.



Syracuse:

The Syracuse FFA Chapter received \$1,500 through the Midwest Farmers Cooperative grant to purchase three chromebooks for the ag classroom to be used for online curriculum and AET record keeping, which is used for FFA members to keep track of their Supervised Agricultural Experiences. They currently do not have any computers in the ag room making it difficult to utilize the internet and AET system.

Palmyra/Elmwood- Murdock:

The Palmyra FFA Chapter conducts distance learning with Elmwood- Murdock to provide them with agricultural classes. The Palmyra FFA chapter received \$2,000 to help fund two grow towers to be put in at Elmwood- Murdock school to provide gardening experience to students year round. The grow towers are aeroponic systems based on the NASA technology using nutrient base solutions pumped through the system and cascading over the plant roots that are grown in soil less media.

We would like to congratulate all the recipients of the grants from Midwest Farmers Cooperative in partnership with Land O'Lakes and CoBank. The recipients were Waverly FFA, Ashland-Greenwood FFA, The Career Academy (LPS), Conestoga FFA, Auburn FFA, Syracuse FFA, and Palmyra/Elmwood-Murdock FFA Chapters. We are proud to support these chapters and the young men and women that have an interest in agriculture. It is a small way that we can give back to the communities that support Midwest Farmers Cooperative and a way to support the future of agriculture. For more information on the grant recipients, go to our website as well as various facebook and twitter posts.