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Dear First through Sixth Grade Teachers:

As you are probably aware, Nebraska agriculture contributes more than \$21 billion to Nebraska's economy each year. Nebraska is home to 46,800 farms and ranches utilizing 93% (45.5 million acres) of the state's total land area. Nebraska IS Agriculture!

And, because Nebraska IS Agriculture, we plan to celebrate National Ag Week (March 24-30) in a special way again this year. We are inviting first through sixth grade teachers and students to get involved in the 11th Annual Nebraska Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Week in Nebraska Poster Contest.

This year's theme is "Nebraska's Family Farms." Students can put into pictures what they feel and think about Nebraska agriculture. Last year, we received nearly 3,000 posters from across Nebraska (both rural and urban) and learned about the creative ways Nebraska's school teachers taught their classrooms about agriculture.

Complete contest rules and entry forms are enclosed with this packet. We ask that you share this information with all first through sixth grade classes in your school. As mentioned in the contest rules, all entries are due by **March 3, 2014!**

We would also like to take a moment to remind you of our newly redesigned "Kids Page" on the Nebraska Department of Agriculture web site (www.nda.nebraska.gov – it's located under the Youth tab on the left-hand column). The "Kids Page" has useful information, games, and activities for students to learn more about Nebraska agriculture. Also included is information on the poster contest, and a glimpse at past years' winners.

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture realizes the important role that you, as educators, play in the lives of Nebraska's youth. If, at any time, we can assist you in your agricultural studies or if you are ever in need of an agricultural guest speaker, please feel free to contact me.

If you have any questions in regard to the poster contest, please contact me at (402) 471-6856 or christin.kamm@nebraska.gov.

We look forward to recognizing the creative talents of your students.

Sincerely,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Christin Kamm
Public Information Officer

Enclosure