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Department of Agriculture



Pete Ricketts, Governor

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Nebraska Students Head to Taiwan as Part of Ag Student Exchange Program

LINCOLN –Three Nebraska high school seniors are heading to Taiwan next week to represent the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) as part of a long-standing student exchange program. Selected by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), the students will learn about Taiwan’s agricultural industry and how Nebraska ag exports benefit both Nebraska and Taiwan.

“This agricultural student exchange program shows our continued commitment to this partnership,” said NDA Director Greg Ibach. “It’s important for the Nebraska students and the students from Taiwan to broaden their world view. The students involved in this exchange program get to experience different types of agriculture, technology and cultures, while gaining an understanding of how everything fits together in a global economy. It’s an opportunity of a lifetime.”

For the past 13 years, as part of this exchange program, three students from an agricultural high school in Taiwan have visited Nebraska to attend the annual Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute – a week-long summer program coordinated by NDA. In return, NDA chooses three NAYI delegates to travel to Taiwan.

The students will leave for Taiwan on Dec. 4 and will return to Nebraska on Dec. 10. While in Taiwan, the students will be staying at the Taichung Agricultural High School. Their visit will include tours of the campus, interaction with Taiwanese students, participation in presentations, visits to local farms and observations of several agricultural research institutes. They also will have the opportunity to do some sightseeing.

The three students going to Taiwan this year are:

- Maisie Kennicutt from Elsie. Maisie is a senior at Wallace High School and is the daughter of Scott and Jill Kennicutt.
- Trevor Ricenbaw from Beaver Crossing. Trevor is a senior at Friend High School and is the son of Lisa Ricenbaw.
- Jared Stander from Ashland. Jared is a senior at Ashland-Greenwood High School and is the son of Dave and Jen Stander.

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The trip is coordinated by NDA and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Denver and is sponsored by the Nebraska Farm Bureau and TECO. Students who attend NAYI are eligible to apply for this agriculture exchange program.

The three students going to Taiwan will share their experiences from their trip at the 2017 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute this summer in Lincoln.

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Note: Photographs of the students are available by emailing christin.kamm@nebraska.gov.

