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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NDA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2018 AG POSTER CONTEST**

LINCOLN – When the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) asked students in grades 1-6 to enter their annual poster contest, the students responded in large numbers. NDA received more than 2,200 posters sharing the story of Nebraska agriculture and highlighting the diversity of the state’s number one industry.

“NDA is pleased to announce the winners of this year’s poster contest as part of our National Ag Week activities,” said NDA Director Steve Wellman. “National Ag Week is a celebration of agriculture and the people who provide the food, feed and fuel that we depend on every day. This year’s posters were very creative and helped share the story that agriculture plays in our lives every day.”

The posters were judged in three separate categories: first and second grade; third and fourth grade; and fifth and sixth grade. The theme for this year’s poster contest was “Sharing the Story of Nebraska Agriculture.”

In the first and second grade division:

- 1st place: Paizley Zutavern, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Sandhills Elementary in Halsey
- 2nd place: Violet Augustyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Milford Elementary
- 3rd place: Kason McCaulley, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Weeping Water Public School
- Governor’s Choice: Wensi Cui, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Maxey Elementary School in Lincoln

In the third and fourth grade division:

- 1st place: Tristan Baxter, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Weeping Water Public School
- 2nd place: Grace Hahn, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Concordia Academy in Omaha
- 3rd place: Elle Jess, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Ord Elementary
- Governor’s Choice: Daniel Scott, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, St. Mary’s Catholic School in Ord

In the fifth and sixth grade division:

- 1st place: Justin Jacobsen, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Knickrehm Elementary in Grand Island
- 2nd place: Marin Riley, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Ord Elementary
- 3rd place: Martin Martinez, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Knickrehm Elementary in Grand Island
- Governor’s Choice: IsaBelle Armstrong, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Columbus Middle School

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The winning posters and the names of the schools submitting entries are on NDA's website at [www.nda.nebraska.gov/kids](http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/kids).

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MEDIA: Digital copies of the winning artwork are available by emailing NDA's webmaster at [agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov](mailto:agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov).