



## National Association of Agricultural Educators

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### News Release

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### **Platte-Geddes High School Agriculture Teacher Selected for Professional Development Scholarship**

Platte, S.D. – Cayla Graves, agricultural educator at Platte-Geddes High School in Platte, S.D. is one of a select group of agriculture teachers nationwide who received the 2015 Teachers Turn the Key professional development scholarship. As a scholarship recipient, Graves attended the National Association of Agricultural Educators annual convention in New Orleans, November 17-21.

The Teachers Turn the Key scholarship brings together agricultural educators with four or fewer years of experience and immerses them in three days of professional development that addresses issues specific to the early years of teaching agriculture. Participants also have the opportunity to become involved in NAAE leadership and network with other NAAE convention attendees. TTTK awardees come away from the experience with a long-lasting peer cohort and tools that will help them have successful careers as agricultural educators.

Graves incorporates real-life experiences in each of her classes and encourages students to discuss with one another each topic being taught. She teaches classes that show how agriculture is constantly developing, and recently began teaching Leadership and Professional Development to attract students who may not be considering a traditional agricultural career, like farming or meat processing, but who may be interested in fields like communications or food nutrition.

“Through research, reading, and professional development, I am continually trying to improve my teaching skills so that I can better equip my students for their futures,” said Graves. “At times, I expect my students to take on

their share of learning and to seek out information beyond what is provided in a textbook or presentation I have prepared. I believe this helps them in their future endeavors, whether that be college or the workforce.”

In addition to attending professional development, each of the TTTK scholarship recipients was also recognized at a general session during the NAAE convention. RAM Trucks sponsors the TTTK program as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

NAAE is the professional organization in the United States for agricultural educators. It provides its' nearly 8,000 members with professional networking and development opportunities, professional liability coverage, and extensive awards and recognition programs. The mission of NAAE is “professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service.” The NAAE headquarters are in Lexington, Ky.

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