

THE ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AND FARM CREDIT ANNOUNCE WINNERS OF THE ARKANSAS GROWN SCHOOL GARDEN OF THE YEAR CONTEST

Arkansas Agriculture Department • #1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
Phone: 501-683-4851

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Agriculture Department and Farm Credit have announced the winners of the 2014 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest. The winners were chosen from Arkansas schools, grades pre-K through 12, that had a school garden open during the 2013-14 school year and provided documentation through photos or video of its uses and existence. Entries were judged by a committee.

Farm Credit has provided funding for the following award categories:

- Overall Winning Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year – Harp Elementary, Springdale, AR
- Arkansas Grown Best Nutrition Education Based School Garden – Asbell Elementary, Fayetteville, AR
- Arkansas Grown Best Environmental Education Based School Garden – Magnet Cove High School, Malvern, AR
- Arkansas Grown Best Community Collaboration School Garden – North Little Rock High School – Freshman campus, North Little Rock, AR

“We are pleased to partner with Farm Credit to recognize the school garden programs that are crucial for educating students about the benefits of fresh produce” stated Butch Calhoun, Arkansas’s Secretary of Agriculture. “The life skills and nutrition lessons learned from the hands-on experience of school garden programs will serve the students well the rest of their lives. The Arkansas Agriculture Department looks forward to schools across the state participating in next year’s contest”, said Calhoun.

Deputy Secretary Cynthia Edwards will present Harp Elementary with its award at 8:45 AM this Friday September 19, 2014, followed by the presentation of Asbell Elementary’s award at 1:30 PM.

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Questions regarding this press release may be directed to Zachary Taylor, Director of Marketing, at 501-219-6324 or email Zachary.Taylor@aad.ar.gov.