



## For Immediate Release

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## **AG FEST AWARDS \$2000 IN THE THIRD ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AWARD**

*Three organizations recognized for their outreach efforts*

Salem, Ore. - March 27, 2014 - Oregon Ag Fest is excited to announce the winners of the third annual Oregon Ag Fest Agricultural Education Award. Canby FFA is the recipient of the first place award for their Ag Literacy Program, receiving \$1000. Their educational outreach consists of community container gardens, a traveling classroom filled with hands-on activities, along with specific outreach programs at local elementary schools and Deer Creek Ranch. In total, they reach nearly 7,500 people annually on the importance of Oregon agriculture. The Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF) received \$600 for their Learning Gardens Program, which provided over 1,100 K-12 students, at nine schools, hands-on gardening experience last year. Their program features gardens, an aquaponics greenhouse and chickens and bunnies, all centered around agricultural education. The Henley FFA Chapter was awarded third place, and \$400, for their variety of outreach efforts within the urban areas of the Klamath Basin, including teaching Ag in the Classroom lessons, A YMCA Pumpkin Festival and Farm Field Days.

The purpose of the Ag Fest Agricultural Education Award is to reward student organizations, non-profit organizations, or classrooms that promote and educate Oregonians about agriculture and extend the Oregon Ag Fest mission beyond its annual, two-day, interactive event. "We were blown-away by the applications we received and are proud to support the agricultural education outreach efforts happening around the state," said Sherry Kudna, OR Ag Fest Chair. "Oregon Ag Fest is dedicated to educating the public about the importance of agriculture, and we see this award as a way to encourage and support organizations that have programs and activities aimed to accomplish the same thing," Kudna added.

The Agricultural Education Awards ceremony will take place at 12pm, on Sunday, 4/27/14, on the main stage in the Americraft Center at the Oregon State Fairgrounds during the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Oregon Ag Fest. Representatives from all three organizations will be present to accept their award.

### **About Oregon Ag Fest**

Oregon Ag Fest is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) volunteer organization dedicated to educating the public about the importance of agriculture. Visit [www.oragfest.com](http://www.oragfest.com) to learn more about the family oriented event that has been educating Oregonians for 27 years about where their food and fiber comes from, and helping people experience life on the farm.

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