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Deadline for National Ag Day Essay Contest Is February 12
Theme for 2010 is “American Agriculture: Abundant, Affordable, Amazing”

OVERLAND PARK, Kan., Dec. XX, 2009 – The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) calls on seventh- to 12th-grade students each year to submit an original, 450-word essay about the importance of agriculture. This year’s theme is “American Agriculture: Abundant, Affordable, Amazing,” and the deadline is Feb. 12. Teachers and parents are asked to encourage their students to participate.

This year, the theme highlights the importance of agriculture and how the industry continues to overcome new challenges. These include keeping food affordable, meeting the demands of a growing population with fewer acres, working with legislative influences and addressing consumer concerns. Students may choose to specifically address one or more of these challenges in their essay. Agriculture has a touch point in each of our lives and is an amazing industry.

“CHS is pleased to help support this year’s Ag Day essay contest and its theme of ‘American Agriculture: Abundant, Affordable, Amazing,’” says Linda Tank, vice president, marketing and communications, CHS Inc. “We recognize the valuable contributions today’s youth offer to help our nation’s food, fiber and energy systems stay strong. We look forward to seeing the students’ opinions and ideas about American agriculture.”

This year’s national winner will receive a \$1,000 prize and round-trip ticket to Washington, D.C., to be recognized during the Celebration of Ag Dinner held March 18 at Whitten Patio. At dinner, the winner will have the opportunity to join with industry representatives, members of Congress, federal agency representatives, media and other friends in a celebration of agriculture.

Statewide winners of the contest also will be selected. Each state winner will receive a \$100 prize.

This is the 37th anniversary of National Ag Day. The goal of the ACA is to provide a spotlight on agriculture and the food and fiber industry. The first of each spring (National Ag Day), ACA helps consumers understand not only how food and fiber products are produced, but also brings people together to celebrate accomplishments in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

The Ag Day Essay Contest is sponsored by CHS Inc., The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, *High Plains Journal*, National Association of Farm Broadcasting, National Agri-Marketing Association, Country Living Association and McCormick Company.

All entries should be sent to: Ag Day Essay Contest, Agriculture Council of America, 11020 King Street, Suite 205, Overland Park, KS 66210, or submitted by e-mail to **essay@agday.org**. Entry applications and official rules for the contest can be found at www.hpj.com/agdayessay.

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