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ORGANIZATION RECEIVES \$50,000 FROM MONSANTO FUND TO SUPPORT ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

Bloomington, IL (Jan 4, 2010) – The IAA Foundation has received \$50,000 from the Monsanto Fund, a private foundation and the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company. The Monsanto Fund’s gift will match other funding and in-kind support to continue a program of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC). The program, Action Science through Agriculture, provides Illinois teachers with scientifically-based resources that help teach students about the vital role science and technology plays in agriculture and in society.

“Monsanto has been a long time supporter of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom,” said Susan Moore, Director of the IAA Foundation. “We are most grateful that their continued funding will help train more teachers and educate more children about the science of producing food, fiber and renewable fuel in modern agriculture, education that is as relevant as any they will receive.”

“Monsanto is pleased to participate in Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom’s Action Science through Agriculture program,” said Mindy Whittle, Monsanto Soybean Industry Affairs Lead and member of the IAITC Executive Coalition. “We believe it is critical for children to have access to agricultural educational resources so that they can understand the important links between agriculture and science. Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom continues to be a leader in providing quality agricultural educational opportunities to Illinois youth. “

IAITC County Coordinators are involved with teachers and education programming in all 102 Illinois counties, delivering curricular resources that provide activities developing critical thinking, research skills, leadership development and basic educational literacy while exploring issues in agriculture and the environment.

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom is a program of the IAA Foundation. The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable foundation, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture. Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom is the top funding priority of the Foundation. Learn more about the IAA Foundation and Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom online at www.iaafoundation.org

About Monsanto Fund:

The Monsanto Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company. Incorporated in 1964, the Fund's primary objective is to improve the lives of people by bridging the gap between their needs and their resources. The Monsanto Fund is focused on grant-making in four main areas: nutritional improvement through agriculture; science education, primarily on professional development for teachers; healthy environment, which includes conservation, protection of biodiversity, clean water and restoration of wildlife habitat; and improving the quality of life in communities where Monsanto employees live and work.

Visit the Monsanto Fund at <http://www.monsantofund.org/asp/welcome.asp>.



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