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Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation Awards Seven Scholarships

Lincoln, NE (June 22, 2016) – The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation has awarded seven scholarships totaling \$16,500 for the 2016/17 academic year to students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis.

The scholarship program was initiated for the 1993/94 academic year with funding from voluntary contributions from the agricultural cooperatives which are members of the Nebraska Cooperative Council. Since the program's inception, 173 scholarships totaling \$161,100 have been awarded.

To be eligible for the scholarships, students must be majoring in agricultural business/economics at UNL or agribusiness or ag production systems at NCTA. Eligibility is restricted to sons or daughters of a parent or legal guardian who has been an active member, director, or employee for at least the prior three years of a cooperative which has been a member in good standing of the Council for at least five years. Other criteria are used by UNL and NCTA.

The six recipients of \$2,500 scholarships at UNL are:

- ❖ **Eric Klitz, son of John & Alice Klitz of West Point**, will be a freshman majoring in agribusiness. The Klitz's are members of Central Valley Ag Co-op in York.
- ❖ **Andrew Bader, son of Gary & Dolores Bader of Gresham**, will be a junior majoring in agribusiness. The Bader's are members of Central Valley Ag Co-op in York and Farmers Co-op in Dorchester.
- ❖ **Erika Harms, daughter of Randy & Karla Harms of Glenvil**, will be a junior majoring in agribusiness. The Harms' are members of Fairfield N/S Co-op Fertilizer and Cooperative Producers Inc in Hastings.
- ❖ **Kyle Heithoff, son of Stan & Dorothy Heithoff of Elgin**, will be a sophomore majoring in agribusiness. The Heithoff's are members of Central Valley Ag Co-op in York.
- ❖ **Tyler Marotz, son of Erin & Nancy Marotz of Mead**, will be a junior majoring in agribusiness. The Marotz's are members of Frontier Co-op Co in Brainard.
- ❖ **Brandon Nichols, son of Dale & Tammi Nichols of Bridgeport**, will be a junior majoring in ag economics. The Nichols' are members of Panhandle Co-op in Scottsbluff and Crossroads Co-op in Sidney.

The recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship at NCTA is:

- ✧ **Riley Abbott, son of William & Sandra Abbott of Hay Springs**, will be a second year student majoring in Ag Production Systems. The Abbott's are members of WESTCO in Alliance and Farmers Co-op Elevator Co in Hemingford.

“The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation is honored to provide students with financial support, allowing them to be able to study agricultural business/economics. Education is one of the fundamental cooperative principles, and this program continues to be an important part of our efforts to help youth understand the cooperative way of doing business and interest them in pursuing careers in the agricultural industry here in Nebraska,” according to Gerald Schmidt, Foundation Board Chairman.

The purposes of the Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation are to promote and encourage high school graduates to pursue higher education in the agricultural and agribusiness fields through scholarships and the implementation of school-to-work programs with participating Nebraska cooperatives; to encourage high school graduates to remain in Nebraska in agricultural pursuits all of which will result in community betterment; and the preservation of agriculture as a way of life.

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