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SES Receives Grant for Grow Rural Education

Local farmer seeks to improve education

Stilson Elementary School (SES) received a \$2,500 grant from Monsanto for their Grow Rural Education (GRE) program, thanks to a local farmer. This program allows SES to enhance the quality of education that they provide students, which grows the rural community while positively impacting the entire district.

Ray Davis, a local farmer and Stilson native, nominated SES to receive \$2,500 through America’s Farmers Grow Communities (AFGC), sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer. As part of their mission, SES will use the funds to improve their GRE program to supply students with books, resources and technology, providing a better life for the community.

“The most important thing about a community is its school, as everything in a community revolves around it,” said Davis. “Now, I’ve been in the Stilson community all my life, 65 years. Nothing is more important to me than the school. I went to school at SES and so did my children, and now my grandchildren go to school at SES.”

SES hosts different events in which they invite local farmers in the community to talk to students about different careers in farming, as part of their GRE program. All SES teachers play a part in the GRE program, said Tanita McDowell, SES principal.

“I am elated, excited and honored to be selected to receive the grant on behalf of SES,” said McDowell. “This will be a great thing for SES.”

AFGC partners with farmers to support nonprofit organizations strengthening rural communities. The program presents farmers with the opportunity to pick a nonprofit organization to receive a \$2,500 donation. It has awarded more than \$33 million to more than 8,000 nonprofits across rural America over the past 10 years.

“A better life is Bayer’s goal. Farmers are invested in their communities, they root for their neighbors, and they know when and where there is a need,” said Al Mitchell, Vice President Corporate Engagement, Bayer. “Farmers are one of America’s best resources, which is why Grow Communities partners with them to direct donations to the organizations they are passionate about and that make a positive impact and a better life in communities.”

To learn more about the America’s Farmers Grow Communities program, visit www.AmericasFarmers.com or follow on Facebook at facebook.com/AmericasFarmers.

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About America’s Farmers

Started in 2010, the America’s Farmers programs, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, have been dedicated to partnering with farmers to strengthen rural communities. The programs provide funding for ag scholarships, nonprofit donations and school STEM grants. Since inception the fund has awarded over \$50 million to rural communities. For more information visit AmericasFarmers.com.

About the Monsanto Fund

The Monsanto Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farmers and Bayer employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at www.monsantofund.org.