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Student Selected to Participate in “Ag Day on the Hill”

(LINCOLN, NE) – Ross Jansen from Wisner was selected as the delegate to represent Nebraska for Ag Day on the Hill. The Ag Day on the Hill program allows a student from Nebraska to join with other students from across the country to learn more about policy, natural resources and agriculture. The Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) protect the future of natural resources by educating young people through programs such as Ag Day on the Hill and the delegate from Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska’s Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Foundation.

“This program is a great way to encourage Nebraska students to take an interest in Agriculture and Natural Resources issues and to be better prepared for leadership in our state,” said Mary Ann Wortmann, NARD Board President. “Experiencing Congress first-hand and being able to learn how our federal government works is a great opportunity for our young people,” Wortmann said.

Ross is a sophomore at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln (UNL), majoring in Agri-Business and Finance. Ross grew up in Wisner, Nebraska and is currently a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity at UNL. Ross is the son of Randy and Staci Jansen. Ross is looking forward to participating in Ag Day on the Hill and learning different perspectives from others attending the program.

Ag Day on the Hill for the Nebraska delegate is supported through the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts’ Foundation. The Foundation uses funds raised to help youth develop an interest in a variety of natural resources programs ranging from Nebraska 4-H to FFA programs. Funds for the NARD Foundation are raised through a variety of activities such as live and silent auctions at the NRD Annual Conference held

every September. The NARD Foundation was established to support students with a desire to enter the field of natural resources. The Foundation provides scholarships, internships and support for high school students to continue their education in natural resources. The NARD co-sponsors the Nebraska Ag Day on the Hill delegate with the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation.

"Nebraska Farm Bureau is proud to be a sponsor of this program. It offers one more opportunity for a young Nebraskan to network with their peers from other states and experience the inner workings of our United States Government. This type of experience will help prepare students like Ross to become leaders in state government and beyond," Keith Olsen, Nebraska Farm Bureau president said.

Ag Day on the Hill takes place in March during National Ag Week. This year National Ag Week is March 13-19, 2011, with National Ag Day celebrated on the final day. Delegates will be in Washington D.C. March 14-15 to learn more about agriculture, policy, natural resources and meet policy makers.

As part of Ag Day, the Ag Council organizes an essay contest and sponsors 50 outstanding student representatives from across the country to participate in activities on the Hill. Ross wrote his essay about his experience in trends and challenges in the feedlot industry. The students—from FFA, 4-H and AFA—put a face on the future of agriculture and spread a message of awareness to lawmakers and other national leaders.

The NARD, the trade association for Nebraska's 23 natural resources districts, works with individual NRDs to protect lives, protect property and protect the future of Nebraska's natural resources. These districts are unique to Nebraska. NRDs are local government entities with broad responsibilities to protect our natural resources. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRDs, enabling districts to respond best to local conservation and resource management needs.

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