



Bayer Canada
Crop Science Division
900 – One Research Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 6E3
Phone (204) 985-1046
Fax (204) 488-1577

High School Students Connect to Local Agriculture with Support from the Bayer Fund

Norwell District Secondary School is a recipient of last year's Canada's Farmers Grow Communities program.

July 8, 2019 – Norwell, ON – Students at Norwell District Secondary School (NDSS) had a unique link to local agriculture thanks to an investment in a specialty program known as LEAF (Local Environmental Agriculture & Food). Bayer Fund awarded \$2,500 through its 2018 Canada's Farmers Grow Communities (CFGC) program to support NDSS students on their mission to learn more about food and agriculture.

"There's not enough awareness about food and agriculture, its impact on the environment, and the future of growing food," said NDSS Teacher Paul Frayne. "Our students were able to have a couple of different experiences that we might not have been able to otherwise because of this grant."

With the support from Bayer Fund, NDSS students had the opportunity to visit a variety of local farms and agriculture businesses to learn about what they do, how they do it, and why it's important to the community. A portion of the funds also went towards operating a small greenhouse and garden at the school. As part of the LEAF program, students can cook meals once a week using local agricultural products, as well as produce they grow themselves.

The Canada's Farmers Grow Communities program is aimed at strengthening rural communities by equipping local non-profit organizations with funds to carry out much needed community work. The aim is for farmers to help improve the lives of many people living in rural communities.

"Bayer recognizes the value of having thriving rural communities across Canada," said Trish Jordan, Director of Public & Industry Affairs at Bayer CropScience. "We are pleased to support Norwell District Secondary School as it helps to get the next generation interested in agriculture while at the same time raising awareness about the important work farmers do."

Lara Charlebois, a community member who grew up on a local farm and the person who nominated NDSS for the CFGC grant, said she was excited when she learned that NDSS would be receiving the grant.

"The LEAF program at NDSS is an important addition to the high school course options," Charlebois says. "I saw this as an opportunity to help support this new program and offer a new, exciting experience to students from a smaller farming community."

The Bayer Fund, the philanthropic arm of Bayer, has funded the Canada's Farmers program to provide a total of 66 grants, each valued at \$2,500, to charitable and not-for-profit groups nominated by farmers.

For more information, media may contact:

Trish Jordan
Industry and Public Affairs Director
(204) 985-1005
trish.jordan@bayer.com