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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NDA SELECTS STUDENTS TO ATTEND FIRST VIRTUAL NAYI EVENT**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) today announced the student delegates selected to attend this year’s Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI). In its 49<sup>th</sup> year, NAYI challenges its delegates to learn more about the agricultural industry and careers available to them in their future. To help slow the spread of COVID-19, this year’s Institute will be held virtually. NAYI is coordinated by NDA and the members of the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC).

“NAYI is the longest running program of its kind in the nation and is a popular event for our student delegates,” said NDA Communications Director and NAYC Advisor Christin Kamm. “While the COVID-19 situation has kept us from hosting an in person event this year, we are pleased to be able to still offer all of the typical learning aspects that our delegates are accustomed to. Moving to a virtual format has also allowed us to provide additional opportunities for learning that we have not previously been able to offer before. This year’s theme is ‘Building Your Brand’ and we intend to help our delegates do just that.”

Since its inception, NAYI has helped educate more than 6,500 youth from around the state. NAYI is made possible through numerous donations from agricultural businesses, commodity groups and industry organizations. This year’s virtual NAYI will be held July 6-10, and the 2020 delegates will receive additional information as the week approaches.

NAYI and additional youth learning opportunities throughout the year are organized by the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC). The 21 college students who serve on NAYC are chosen by NDA to share their passion and knowledge about agriculture with young people across Nebraska. During NAYI, NAYC members provide valuable insight and advice about agriculture, college coursework and career building.

To learn more about NAYC or NAYI, or to view the listing of delegates selected to participate in NAYI 2020 - visit NAYI’s website at [nda.nebraska.gov/nayi/index.html](http://nda.nebraska.gov/nayi/index.html). Follow NAYI activities on Facebook by searching and liking the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute. On Twitter, follow @THE\_NAYC or #NAYI20.

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**NOTE TO MEDIA:** A list of the 2020 NAYI delegates and their hometowns is attached. Photos of the delegates can be requested by emailing [agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov](mailto:agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov).