

## **Osmond FFA Chapter Receives a \$2,000 Grant for Grow Tower Indoor Garden**

Grant provided by Farm Credit Services of America Working Here Fund  
for Agriculture Education

NORFOLK, NEBRASKA – Osmond FFA Chapter received a \$2,000 grant for a grow tower indoor garden. The grant is provided through Farm Credit Services of America's (FCSAmerica) Working Here Fund.

The Working Here Fund grant will help purchase a tower growing system, lights, seedling starter kit and other supplies to introduce the indoor garden to students. The grow tower will use less than three square feet of space in the classroom and can be used year-round. Students in the horticulture and plant science classes will be able to practice the application of light and nutrient requirements for specific plants.

"This project will not only advance our agricultural education curriculum into the latest areas of plant science and crop production, but it will also provide our school with up to 30% more healthy food, using 90% less water and space than a traditional outdoor garden," said Jessica Evans, agricultural educator. "It is possible to grow over 150 different wellness promoting plants using the grow tower."

The grow tower will be ordered this month and is scheduled to be ready for use by March 1. The lettuce growing process will take approximately 40 days and then harvest will occur for 3-5 weeks. A second lettuce trial will begin in August 2018.

"At FCSAmerica, many of us grew up in agriculture and continue to farm. We know first-hand the value of agriculture education and are proud to partner with Osmond FFA Chapter to ensure future generations have the same opportunities for learning," said Zach Gansebom, vice president of retail operations at FCSAmerica's Norfolk office.

Osmond FFA Chapter is one of 77 organizations to receive a Working Here Fund grant in the fourth quarter of 2017. FCSAmerica awarded \$125,180 during the latest grant cycle ending December 31, 2017.