

## For Immediate Release

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### **St. Louis 4-H Youth Join Teens from Across the U.S. at National Youth Summit on Agri-Science in Washington, D.C.**

*Hands-on learning experience prepared youth to develop an action plan to address local challenge.*

In order to continue to fuel the discovery of new solutions and solve big challenges in human health, agriculture, and food, it will be critical to cultivate the next generation of leaders in science. Twelve local innovators attended the National Youth Summit on Agri-Science in Washington, D.C:

Candace Betts  
Benjamin Brandt  
Sumner Brandt  
Rachel Fry  
Samonte' Jennings  
Drachen Koester  
Emily Larner  
Anna Loucks  
Olivia Pfeiffer  
Aimee Pieper  
Deana Raasch  
Anushka Ramgounda

The three-day Summit held at the National 4-H Conference Center, immersed the 4-H'ers in an agenda focused on a variety of Agri-Science topics relevant to today's agriculture. Topics included soil health, animal biosecurity, agribusiness, drones, honeybees, and precision farming. Attendees from across the country had the opportunity to build their science skills in more than 15 sessions led by a number of industry leaders and mentors.

One youth summarized his experience as, "Because of my attendance at the Summit on Agri-Science, I learned so much about different issues communities all across the country are facing. I learned about the different ways the people of those communities are working to fix those issues, and how I can help solve those, as well as similar issues in my own community. I have a better understanding of Agri-

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Science and how important it has been in the past, how important it is now, and how very important it is for our future.”

Youth will be addressing the challenges of raising environmental awareness, growing community gardens, and reducing poverty in their community action plans.

The 2018 National Youth Summit on Agri-Science, sponsored by Bayer, is just one part of Bayer’s commitment to grow the pipeline of tomorrow’s innovators in science and agriculture. Science Matters, a nationwide collaboration between Bayer and National 4-H Council, leverages Bayer’s more than 150 years of scientific breakthroughs, and 4-H’s century of hands-on learning, to equip more than 25,000 youth with tools needed to deepen their understanding of science.

**About 4-H:** 4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization that empowers nearly six million young people across the U.S. with critical life skills. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation’s Cooperative Extension System and USDA, and serves every county and parish in the U.S. through a network of 110 public universities, as well as more than 3,000 local Extension offices. 4-H participants are four times more likely to contribute to their communities; two times more likely to make healthier choices; two times more likely to be civically active; and two times more likely to participate in STEM programs. Globally, 4-H collaborates with independent programs to empower one million youth in 50 countries. Learn more about 4-H at [www.4-H.org](http://www.4-H.org), find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/4-H](http://www.facebook.com/4-H) and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/4H>.