



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



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## Case IH donates two tractors, front loader, utility vehicle to new Urban Ag program at MPS' Vincent High School

*Students to plant crops on school's 90-plus-acre northwest Milwaukee campus*

MILWAUKEE (March 28, 2013) – Urban Agriculture students at Milwaukee Public Schools' Harold S. Vincent High School will soon be able to turn acres of their campus into an open-air classroom thanks to a generous donation from Racine-based Case IH announced Thursday.

Case IH, a global leader in agriculture equipment, has donated two tractors, a front loader and a utility vehicle to the new Urban Ag program at Vincent.

The school and students plan to use the equipment to assist in planting crops – perhaps including alfalfa, corn and oats – on Vincent's 92-acre far-northwest Milwaukee campus. The crops will be donated to local farmers and/or the Wisconsin State Fair for animal feed.

"We see this as a joint opportunity," explained Kyle Russell, Senior Director of Marketing for Case IH North America. "We make it our focus at Case IH to help producers be ready for the challenges and opportunities they encounter every day. One of those challenges is educating the next generation about agriculture. So it presents a path to a career for these students and a new source of employees for our industry."

"These are critical tools that connect our students with real college and career pathways," MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton said. "We couldn't be more grateful."

Milwaukee is a hub of the urban agriculture movement, including companies such as Growing Power and Sweet Water Organics who produce healthy food locally. The area is also a hub for food manufacturing. According to regional economic development group Milwaukee 7, the Milwaukee region is home to the highest concentration of food and beverage manufacturing talent among the nation's 50 largest metro areas. The region also boasts the nation's third highest concentration of food scientists.



The new program at Vincent, launched this school year, directly connects students to those college and career pathways with coursework that covers urban agriculture, aquaponics, biotechnology/biofuels, botany, food science, landscape/design, urban gardening/horticulture and veterinary science. In addition to the new equipment, students have access to and help operate a bee apiary, a greenhouse and a “hoop” house.

The program partners with two Milwaukee-based leaders in the urban agriculture field -- Growing Power and Sweet Water -- along with FaB Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and its WATER Institute and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Instructors in the program – science faculty members Rich DePalma and Mark Hladilek and Career and Technical Education (CTE) faculty members Kyle Slick and Kevin Hach – worked through Cardinal Stritch University to develop an aquaponics curriculum tied to the rigorous Next Generation Science Frameworks.

Hach calls the gift “extremely valuable. It will mean being able to efficiently turn over the fields to prepare them with proper soil conditions and maintain whatever we put in the field.” The gift allows instructors to expand and deepen Urban Ag opportunities for students.

Students in the program with driver’s licenses will be trained to operate the equipment and maintain the crops. And Hach, who also teaches automotive courses at Vincent with instructor Tim Long, said students will also have the opportunity to learn how to perform preventative maintenance on the equipment as well as to diagnose and service it.

The announcement was made Thursday at an event that included Vincent instructors, MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton, Vincent Principal Matthew Boswell, Case IH Senior Director of Marketing Kyle Russell and State Rep. Fred Kessler (D-Milwaukee).

The news drew interest from agriculture journalist Pam Jahnke, host of Farm Report with Pam Jahnke, who hosted her show from the site Wednesday morning.

“I’m excited to broadcast the news not just as a farm broadcaster, but also as a member of the Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council,” Jahnke said.

This news – along with additional photos from the event – are available online:

<http://www5.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/dept/superintendent/2013/03/case-ih-donation-vincent-urban-ag/>

Case IH is a global leader in agricultural equipment, committed to develop the most powerful, productive, reliable equipment – designed to meet today’s agricultural challenges. Case IH produces agricultural equipment systems, including tractors; combines; precision farming systems and equipment for hay and forage, tillage, planting, application. With headquarters in Racine, WI, Case IH works through a dedicated network of professional dealers and distributors in more than 160 countries.

News about Case IH is available at <http://pressroom.caseih.com>.

Milwaukee Public Schools is Wisconsin’s largest school district, serving more than 78,000 students in more than 160 schools across the city. U.S. News and World Report named MPS’ Rufus King International School and Ronald Wilson Reagan College Preparatory High School the two best high schools in the state and among the 200 best in the country in 2012. In the past year, Milwaukee Public Schools posted a growing graduation rate 17 points higher than the rate for 2000.

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