

August 20, 2013

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Student:

I am a faculty member at the University of Arkansas working on a USDA funded project. I am conducting research on integrating agricultural communications curriculum into Arkansas high schools. The goal of the research is to develop secondary school curriculum, which would improve student knowledge and skills in written and oral communications, electronic communication technologies, math, science, and literacy and increase understanding of agricultural communication careers.

Your student was chosen for this study because he/she is enrolled in an agricultural science course instructed by a teacher on the advisory council for this granted project. A total of approximately 500 students from Arkansas public schools have been asked to participate in this study. Students will be taught curriculum in agricultural communications aligned with present coursework required by the state of Arkansas agricultural frameworks. He/she will be given tests to determine prior knowledge, knowledge gained, and knowledge retained from the lessons in this new curriculum. This information will help us improve the curriculum.

There are no risks connected to this project. The benefit of participation in this study is the opportunity of learning information about agricultural communications and professional opportunities. Your student will participate in all classroom activities during this research project. However, the decision to allow your child’s scores and responses to be used in recording and analyzing data for this project is completely voluntary.

All information collected will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law and University policy. All information will be coded by the researchers and identifying information will be removed from the forms. No identifiers linking you or your student to the study will be included in any report or publication.

By signing below you authorize your child to participate in the research project and have data collected. If you have any questions, you can contact me using the information listed below. Thank you for your support and participation.

Sincerely,



Leslie D. Edgar, Associate Professor of Agricultural Communications

Department of Agricultural and Extension Education / University of Arkansas

205 Agriculture Building Fayetteville, AR 72701

(479) 575-6770; ledgar@uark.edu

Participant (Student): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name Signature Date

Parent / Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name Signature Date

*This research study has been reviewed by the Institutional Review Board at the University of Arkansas. For research-related problems or questions regarding students’ rights, you can contact Ro Windwalker, the University’s Compliance Coordinator, at (479) 575-2208 or e-mail irb@uark.edu.*