For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, March 21, 2007

National 4-H Council Supports 4-H Volunteers With $500,000 From Monsanto Company

CHEVY CHASE, Md.—National 4-H Council has received a two-year $500,000 award from Monsanto Company to create hands-on training experiences for 4-H’s 540,000 volunteers, who provide 4-H youth across America with opportunities to learn leadership, citizenship and life skills.

“As a company 100 percent focused on agriculture, Monsanto is committed to investing in ag youth who represent the future of farming,” said Ernesto Fajardo, vice president of Monsanto's U.S. crop production business. “We appreciate and are proud to support the dedication of 4-H volunteers across the country as they help youth become active citizens and community leaders.”

Through regional and state 4-H volunteer forums funded by Monsanto, 4-H volunteers will network with each other and learn about innovative programs that will help them bring fresh perspectives and activities to their local 4-H programs. They also will consider how to recruit, retain, recognize and promote 4-H volunteers nationally, regionally and locally. Monsanto provided early funding to help make the National 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Awards—recognizing top 4-H volunteer leaders across the nation—possible.

“4-H is supported nationwide by a dedicated network of volunteers who know the value of strong, positive youth development. Partners like Monsanto make it possible for 4-H to continue to build and sustain our volunteer base and ensure that even more youth enjoy fulfilling 4-H experiences,” said Donald T. Floyd, Jr., president and chief executive officer, National 4-H Council.

“Monsanto has a long-standing tradition of providing support for 4-H,” noted Jim Tobin, director, biotech business development, Monsanto, who presented the $500,000 training award to 4-H. “Many company employees were 4-H members, and tell us that they credit 4-H for many of the skills they use today to do their jobs—a real credit to the 4-H volunteer leaders who assisted them in their learning process.”

Monsanto Company is a leading global provider of technology-based solutions and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality. For additional information, please visit www.monsanto.com.
4-H is a community of more than 6.5 million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. National 4-H Council is the national, private sector, non-profit partner of the 4-H Youth Development Program and its parent, the Cooperative Extension System of the United States Department of Agriculture. Learn more about 4-H at www.4husa.org.

###

Contacts:

4-H: Amee Patel, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
apatel@fourhcouncil.edu, 301-961-2926

Monsanto: Tami Craig Schilling, Public Affairs Manager
tamara.j.craig.schilling@monsanto.com, 314-694-2247

Photo and caption:

National 4-H Council Trustee Jim Tobin, director, biotech business development, Monsanto, presents a $500,000 award for volunteer training to National 4-H Council Board of Trustees Chairman Anthony Tansimore, senior consultant, The 360 Group, at the National 4-H Council Board of Trustees meeting at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md., in March. The Monsanto Company is a long-time supporter of 4-H volunteer development and recognition. From left to right are Donald T. Floyd, Jr., president and CEO, National 4-H Council; National 4-H Council Trustee Nancy Redd, Miss Virginia 2003; Tobin, Tansimore, and National 4-H Council Trustee Jim Borel, senior vice president, human resources, DuPont.