**Harvest FarmChat w/ Secretary Northey – Jordan Creek Elementary, West Des Moines**

Date: Friday, October 28, 2014

Time: Connect at 1:15 pm, End between 1:50 & 2 p.m.

(Cindy will arrive at field by 12:30p.m to test the connection)

School: Jordan Creek Elementary, West Des Moines

Grade: Four 4th grade classes (100+ students)

Contact Teacher: Jan Bergman

Theme: Harvest, Corn, Iowa Agriculture

**Program Time: 35-45 minutes**

* **Total Talking Time: 21-26 minutes Total time for Questions: 14-29 minutes**

**Program Outline**

***Cindy Introduction*** (At distance from Bill - showing field) **– 1 minute**

* Describe field location (distance from school) – Show surrounding fields
* Introduce Secretary Northey

**Bill’s Farm Overview & Soils** (Standing by corn in front of combine) – **5 minutes**

* Brief history of family farm/Overview of farm operation today
* Why do you farm? How did you learn to farm?
* Talk about soil and the connection between Iowa’s rich soil and prairie plants (They just finished studying prairies)
* What do you do to care for the land? – soil conservation, water quality, etc.

***2-3 questions from students about Bill’s farm – 3 minutes***

**Corn & Combine** (start at front of combine by corn and walk to back) – **3 minutes**

* How big is the field? How big is an acre? (football field)
* How long will it take to harvest this field? All of your crops?
* Show a cut off corn stalk
  + How tall, how many ears?
  + Show how the corn goes into the combine
* Describe combine from front to back – main parts, how it works
* How much corn does it hold? How big is a bushel? (small clothes basket)

***2-3 questions from students about outside of combine and how it works? – 3 minutes***

**Inside Cab** (Bill sitting in cab. Cindy standing at door) – **2 minutes**

* Describe inside (seats, controls, monitors, hopper window, radio, air conditioning, etc)
* Describe how you operate the combine

***2-3 questions from students about inside of combine? – 3 minutes***

**Ride-along** (Cindy in cab with Bill) – **3-5 minutes**

* If they can hear, talk more about the combine and Bill’s farm.
* If we can hear them, take a few questions during the ride-along.
* Stop just before the end of the row.

**Watch from outside combine** (Stop, Cindy climbs out of combine, watch from field) **– 5-10 minutes w/ Q&A**

* Watch Bill finish row, turn around and come back
* Cindy answer questions from students while Bill finishes row and comes back again
* Watch Bill unload on the go, if possible.
* Cindy explains how corn transported, stored, and sold; what it is used for; etc?
* Bill returns to answer final questions

**Closing with Bill *– 2-3 minutes***

* Importance of agriculture to 4th graders
* Importance of agriculture to Iowa
* Opportunities in agriculture