



Library StemCarts

EMPLOYEE & CONTRACTOR
NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

A PROGRAM OF THE DEB AND JEFF HANSEN FOUNDATION

As part of our Henry's Heroes program, the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation is donating 50 STEM carts to libraries in our Homegrown Iowa communities. Each STEM cart will allow kids to develop their skills in science, technology, engineering and math while visiting their local library. The carts will be delivered to libraries nominated by Iowa Select Farms employees and contractors to empower kids to be future innovators, creators and leaders.

WHY LIBRARIES?

Libraries are a staple of our Homegrown Iowa communities. With 543 public libraries scattered throughout our state, Iowa consistently ranks in the top five states nationwide for our number of public libraries. These free, trusted and welcoming gathering places do a lot to support our communities and families. From providing access to learning resources kids don't get at home to serving as a safe place for kids to access the internet or hang out after school, libraries make a difference in rural communities even while being consistently underfunded.

WHY STEM?

Our carts include a variety of STEM toys and kits that encourage organic and structured play grounded in science, technology, engineering and math concepts. We know early exposure to STEM education benefits kids. In addition to promoting critical thinking, analytical reasoning, innovation and creativity, STEM activities also teach cognitive, social and emotional development at all ages.

For older kids, STEM pairs academic concepts with real-world application to make connections between school and careers. This connection is critical because the U.S. Department of Labor projects STEM occupations will grow 11% by 2030. Iowa has an especially meaningful stake in STEM because each area of the educational approach is tied to agriculture. According to the Governor's office, 95% of Iowans agree that STEM education should be a priority, but only 58% believe it is. Our future depends on equipping students with the STEM skills necessary to pursue a career in agriculture.

ABOUT HENRY'S HEROES AND THE DEB AND JEFF HANSEN FOUNDATION:

Henry's Heroes is all about helping the littlest of Iowans. This Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation program was inspired by Henry Johnson, Jeff and Deb Hansen's grandchild and the son of Natalie and Jake Johnson. Each year on Henry's birthday, Natalie selects a new project to support children and children's resource efforts in our Homegrown Iowa communities.

Founded in 2006, the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation carries out programs across Iowa focused on providing hunger relief, showing gratitude to the armed services and supporting families impacted by childhood cancer. Jeff and Deb Hansen are the founders and owners of Iowa Select Farms, a family-owned, Iowa-based pork production company with 1,850 employees and contractors across rural Iowa.



How to BRING A STEM CART TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY:

You can help equip your local library with the resources to facilitate STEM education. Iowa Select Farms employees and contractors who wish to nominate their local library are invited to [fill out this form](#). Nominated libraries must be located in eligible counties, and nomination forms must be fully completed to be considered.



Libraries in these counties are eligible: Adams, Buena Vista, Butler, Calhoun, Carroll, Cherokee, Clarke, Clay, Crawford, Dallas, Floyd, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marshall, Mitchell, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Sac, Story, Tama, Taylor, Union, Webster, Winnebago, Woodbury and Wright.

