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Dear Student and Parents,

Farmers Cooperative is proud to have teamed up with Bonnie Plants to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Cabbage Program. Farmers Cooperative and Bonnie Plants want to share our love of gardening with these 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. We feel that gardening is a great way for parents to share time with their children while it also teaches these 3<sup>rd</sup> graders about how our food is grown and where it comes from. By growing this cabbage plant, you will be one of hundreds of thousands of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who participate in Bonnie Plant Farm's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Cabbage Program nationwide. By planting one of our O.S. Cross, or "oversized" cabbage plants, you can watch your cabbage plant grow to more than Forty pounds – bigger than a basketball!!

By growing this cabbage plant you will become eligible for a chance to win money and prizes. We will pick a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class winner from each participating class based on size, maturity, and appearance of the cabbage plant. Bonnie Plant Farms takes all of the class winner's names from all over the state and has a random drawing for the state winner. The state winner will receive a \$1000 dollar Scholarship from Bonnie Plant Farms. In addition, Farmers Cooperative will have a random drawing from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class winners from participating schools, and the winner will receive a \$10 gift card from Farmers Cooperative along with a Red/White/Blue Co-op hat and a Farmers Cooperative T-shirt. Farmers Cooperative will treat the winner and his/her class to a pizza party. Farmers Cooperative will also have a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall winners of all participating students. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will receive a \$30 gift card from Farmers Cooperative along with a Red/White/Blue Co-op hat and a Farmers Cooperative T-shirt. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner will receive a \$20 gift card from Farmers Cooperative along with a Red/White/Blue Co-op hat and a Farmers Cooperative T-shirt. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner will receive a \$10 gift card from Farmers Cooperative along with a Red/White/Blue Co-op hat and a Farmers Cooperative T-shirt.

The Bonnie Plant Farms 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Cabbage program is very simple, all you have to do is plant the cabbage plant, provide the nutrients and attention it needs, and watch it grow. **Bring this letter to Farmers Cooperative at 748 Southwest Horry Ave. in Madison and we will give each participating 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade student a Cabbage Care Package (small bag of fertilizer and a garden trowel) for free.** Our staff will be happy to answer questions and assist the student with this project. You can also go to Farmers Cooperative's website at [www.farmerscooperative.org](http://www.farmerscooperative.org) and click on News and Events to get step by step instructions on how to grow your Bonnie cabbage. During the growing process, we encourage parents to take pictures of the student and their plant and then e-mail them to [infomadison@farmerscooperative.org](mailto:infomadison@farmerscooperative.org) so we can upload them to the Photo Gallery on our website at [www.farmerscooperative.org](http://www.farmerscooperative.org). So make sure during the event that you check out the Photo Gallery often to see the progress that you or classmates have made. Also you may want to view some of the winners from last years contest.

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, Farmers Cooperative in Madison will have an official weigh in day from 9:00 a.m. until at 12:00 noon. (If your cabbage matures earlier you are welcome to bring it by Farmers Cooperative to have it weighed and judged.) After the weigh in, the cabbage will be judged for size, maturity, and appearance. From all the entries, a winner from each participating 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class will be selected. These class winners will then be entered into the State Bonnie Plant Farms drawing for the \$1000 scholarship.

Farmers Cooperative looks forward to the opportunity for our local 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes to enjoy the fun of gardening as well as have the opportunity to win money and prizes.