



GROW your AgriRoots - Rising Star Award Contest

Rewarding the Next Generation in Agriculture

Are you new to farming and ranching or intend to start your business in the next year? If you need capital to help build a strong and lasting operation, then we encourage you to apply for a **GROW your AgriRoots Rising Star Award** for a chance at a \$10,000 prize!

The Capital Farm **Credit GROW Your AgriRoots Rising Star Award Contest** was created to help new farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness owners jump-start their agricultural operations. Selection of finalists is based on efforts in agriculture, business and financial character, leadership, community involvement, participation in continuing education or training and innovation.

The contest offers up to two \$10,000 awards to top contestants. Up to five finalists may receive a \$1,000 stipend. Applications open **April 15, 2025**, and must be **completed by midnight on June 20, 2025, to be eligible for an Rising Star Ag Award.**

Incomplete applications will not be accepted and applicants who submit incomplete applications will not be contacted. If you have any questions about this contest or application, please call Allyson Tjoelker at 979-822-7879.

Rising Star Award - Eligibility

- Applicant must be 18 years of age or older as of **June 20, 2025**.
- Applicants must be a beginning farmer, rancher or agribusiness owner with **two years or less** experience in managing their own agricultural operation or be in the process of starting an operation within the calendar year as of **June 20, 2025**.
- Applicant does **not** need to be an existing or former Capital Farm Credit customer.
- Applicant must reside within Capital Farm Credit's territory, or the operation's headquarters must be located within Capital Farm Credit's territory. See page 5.
- Applicants may apply as an individual or with a business partner.
- If applicant applies as a partnership and is selected as a recipient, the cash prize will be awarded to the primary applicant.
- Applicants are eligible for one Capital Farm Credit **GROW your AgriRoots Rising Star Award** during a 12-month period. Once an applicant wins this award, they become ineligible to compete for a Rising Star Award but may compete for a the GROW Your AgriRoots Trailblazer Award if all other eligibility criteria are met.

- Officers, Directors, and employees of the Sponsor, Capital Farm Credit, and their subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, press/media representatives, and immediate family members of these entities are not eligible to enter. Family is defined as an individual and spouse and anyone having the following relationship to either: parents, spouse, son, daughter, sibling, stepparent, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, grandparent, grandson, granddaughter, and the spouse of the foregoing and/or those living in the same household of each.

How will applications be judged?

Phase One

An independent panel of qualified judges will review all of the applications and select up to five finalists moving onto phase two of the judging process.

Each application in phase one will be **evaluated based on the following criteria** to achieve a score out of 100 possible points:

- Agriculture Business Growth: 30 points
- Business and Financial Character: 20 points
- Leadership & Community Involvement: 15 points
- Continuing Education Programs, Courses or Training: 15 points
- Sustainability Practices: 10 points
- Spelling and Grammar and Overall Presentation: 10
- Total: 100 points

Phase Two

Finalists and In-Person Interviews

Applicants who are selected as finalists will receive an invitation to participate in an in-person interview with the judging selection committee.

In-person interviews will be held on July 30th at the Capital Farm Credit Headquarters (3902 South Traditions Drive, College Station, TX 77845). Interviews will be no longer than 40 minutes and are intended for the applicant to provide additional details and clarification regarding their application and for the judging committee to ask questions. Finalists are eligible for travel and lodging reimbursements to attend the in-person judging.

During the interview process, only the named applicant(s) is permitted into the interview. No guests will be granted access to the interview. Interviewees will be asked to provide a 15-minute sales pitch to judges. The purpose of the pitch is for finalists to showcase creativity, innovation and business acumen while explaining how the award

money would be utilized to improve operations. Guidelines for the sales pitch will be provided to finalists in advance of the interview. Finalists should be prepared to present a PowerPoint presentation.

Each application in phase two will be evaluated based on the following Interview selection criteria values:

- Sales Pitch: 40 points
- Ability to explain application and answer interview questions: 30 points
- Professional appearance: 30 points
- Total: 100 points

Application Requirements

All applications must be submitted online. Online applications open **April 15, 2025**.

A full application consists of:

1. Intent to apply through registration
2. Emerging Leaders Institute Certificate of Completion
The Emerging Leaders Institute is a six-part online, self-paced training series developed to help producers strengthen their business and financial skills. The full series takes an estimated four hours to complete and support applicants in developing a business plan, balance sheet, and profit and loss statements. Once an applicant submits the intent to apply, that applicant will receive access to the Emerging Leaders Institute.
3. Biography and contact information
4. Complete essay Application
5. Submit a completed Business Plan, Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement
Applicants must use the templates provided by Capital Farm Credit through the Emerging Leaders Institute.
6. Submit a completed W-9
7. Submit a high-resolution photo (.jpg or .png)

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Market Territories

