



GROW your AgriRoots Grant Contest

Rewarding the Next Generation in Agriculture

Are you new to farming and ranching or have an intent 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 Grant** for a chance at a \$10,000 prize!

Capital Farm Credit presents the inaugural **GROW your AgriRoots Grant** contest for young, beginning, small (YBS agricultural operators). This grant contest was created to help new farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness owners jump start their agricultural operations. Selection of winners is based on efforts in agriculture, business and financial character, leadership, community involvement, participation in continuing education or training and sustainability practices.

The grant contest offers up to two \$10,000 grants to top contestants. Up to five finalists may receive a \$1,000 stipend. Applications open August 15, 2024, and must be **completed by midnight on September 30, 2024, to be eligible for a grant.**

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.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be 18 years of age or older as of September 30, 2024.
- 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 September 30, 2024.
- 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 applicants apply 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 Grant** during a 12-month period. Once an applicant wins a grant, they become ineligible

to compete in the grant category, but may compete in the GROW Your AgriRoots Award category 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 the applications and select up to seven 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 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 to answer questions and give further context to their application.

In person interviews will be held on October 22, 2024, at the Capital Farm Credit Headquarters (3902 South Traditions Drive, College Station, TX 77845). Interviews will be no longer than 30 minutes in length 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 judging in person.

During the interview process, only the named applicant(s) is permitted into the interview. No guests will be granted access to the interview. No access to audio visual/PowerPoint/Prezi will be supported during the interview process.

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

- Introduction: 20 points
- Ability to explain application and answer interview questions: 60 points
- Professional appearance: 20 points
- Total: 100 points

Application Requirements

All applications must be submitted online. Online applications open **August 15, 2024**.

A full application consists of:

1. Intent to apply through registration
2. Biography and contact information
3. Series of essays
4. Emerging Leaders Institute Certificate of Completion
The Emerging Leaders Institute is a 6-part online, self-paced training series developed to help producers strengthen their business and financial skills. The full series takes estimated 4 hours to complete and will support applicants in the development of 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.
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)
8. Submit a Letter of Recommendation.
The letter must include the contact's name, title, address, email address, phone number, and relationship to the applicant and must not be dated prior to September 30, 2024. Family members, Farm Credit staff, and Farm Credit directors are not eligible to write letters of recommendation.

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