

Grow Your AgriRoots Contest

FAQ's

How do I know which category I qualify to apply for in the GROW Your AgriRoots Contest?

Award Category: All applicants must be existing or former Capital Farm Credit members and have between 2-10 years of experience in farming, ranching or operating an agribusiness.

Grant Category: Applicants do not have to be Capital Farm Credit members and should have less than 2 years of experience in farming, ranching or operating an agribusiness. Applicants may also be in the process of starting an ag operation within the calendar year.

Please see contest requirements above for more details. All applicants for both the award and grant categories must fit into at least one of the following groups: 1) between 18 and 35 years of age, 2) operate a farm with annual ag income less than \$350,000, or 3) a beginning farmer with at least one year of experience, but no more than 10 years' experience as a farmer, rancher or agribusiness owner.

Can I apply as a part-time farmer, rancher or agribusiness owner?

Yes, both part-time and full-time agribusiness owners can apply.

Is there an educational requirement in order to apply?

Yes

Grant Category

Grant applicants are required to complete the Capital Farm Credit Emerging Leaders Institute and must submit a completed business plan, balance sheet and profit and loss statement with the application.

Award Category

Award applicants are only required to take the business planning and goal setting session of ELI and must submit a completed business plan with the application.

What is the Emerging Leaders Institute and how long does it take to complete?

Capital Farm Credit's Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) is an online, self-paced master class series designed to help build and strengthen business and financial acumen. This training will support the applicant in building a business plan, balance sheet and profit and loss statement, which are all required to be submitted as a part of the application for

the Grant Category. The six-part series takes approximately three to four hours to complete the full video courses. Full course completion and submission of completed business plan, balance sheet and profit and loss statements are mandatory for grant applicants.

- Grant applicants are required to complete all sessions of ELI
- Award applicants are only required to take the business planning and goal setting session of ELI which takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. Award applicants must submit a completed business plan to apply.
- Access to ELI will be made available to each applicant by email once the Intent to Apply has been submitted through the online application.

How many awards will be presented?

Up to two \$10,000 cash awards in each category will be awarded. In addition, up to five finalists in each category may receive \$1,000 cash awards.

Are the award funds taxable?

Yes, the award money is taxable. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

Who should be included in my application photo?

You should attach a professional photo of yourself and co-applicant, if applicable.

Is anyone not eligible to apply?

See eligibility requirements above for details. Anyone who does not meet the requirements is not eligible to apply.

Officers, Directors, and employees of the Sponsor, Capital Farm Credit, and their subsidiaries, affiliates, their agents, press/media representatives, and the immediate family members of these entities are not eligible to apply. Family is defined as spouse, parents, siblings, children, mothers- and fathers-in-law, brothers- and sisters-in-law, and sons- and daughters-in-law.

Are past winners eligible to apply?

Award Division

Winners must wait a minimum of five years before applying again. However, finalists are eligible to reapply any number of consecutive years as long as they meet other eligibility criteria.

Grant Division

Grant winners are ineligible to reapply for the Grant competition. Winners may apply for the Award division once they meet the eligibility requirements. Finalists are eligible to reapply as long they meet other eligibility criteria.

Who will judge and evaluate my application?

An independent panel of qualified judges will review all applications in both Phase 1 (application) and Phase 2 (interview) of the judging process.

Can I apply as a single applicant? Can I apply as a co-applicant?

Yes, you can apply as a single applicant, or you can apply with a business partner. The application should only reflect the efforts of the named applicants.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

Contact Allyson Tjoelker at Allyson.Tjoelker@CapitalFarmCredit.com or 979-822-3018 ext. 7879 for questions or more information.

