



GROW Your AgriRoots Rising Star Award Contest

Rewarding the Next Generation in Agriculture

Are you new to farming or ranching, or planning to launch an agricultural operation within the next year? Apply for the Capital Farm Credit GROW Your AgriRoots Rising Star Award for a chance to receive up to \$10,000.

Awards: Up to two \$10,000 awards; up to five finalists receive \$1,000 stipends.

Application Period: May 1 – June 30, 2026 (midnight deadline)

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Eligibility Requirements

- 18 years or older by June 30, 2026
- Beginning farmer/rancher or agribusiness owner (≤ 2 years experience) or starting within the calendar year
- Must reside or operate within Capital Farm Credit territory
- May apply individually or as a partnership
- Only one Rising Star Award per 12-month period
- Employees, affiliates, and immediate family members are not eligible

Application Judging – Phase One

An independent panel of qualified judges will review all eligible applications and select finalists to move on to 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 maximum points:

- Agriculture Business Growth – 30 points
- Business & Financial Character – 20 points
- Leadership & Community Involvement – 15 points
- Continuing Education & Training – 15 points
- Sustainability Practices – 10 points
- Spelling, Grammar & Presentation – 10 points

In Person Finalist Interviews – Phase Two

July 21–22, 2026 | Capital Farm Credit Headquarters, College Station, TX
Includes a 15-minute PowerPoint sales pitch. Travel and lodging reimbursed.

- Sales Pitch – 40 points
- Ability to explain application & answer questions – 30 points
- Depth of knowledge and professional appearance – 30 points

Application Requirements

- Intent to Apply through Survey Monkey Applied registration
- Emerging Leaders Institute Certificate
- Biography and contact information
- Essay application
- Completed Business Plan, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Projection (official templates required)
- Completed W-9
- High-resolution photo (.jpg or .png)
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted or reviewed.

Note: The Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) is an 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 ELI. Upon completion of ELI, the applicant will receive an official certificate.