



2024 GROW Your AgriRoots Award Competition

Rewarding the Next Generation in Agriculture

Are you a young, beginning, or small (YBS) producer working hard to be outstanding in your field? Then you should apply for a GROW your AgriRoots Award for a chance at a \$10,000 prize!

Capital Farm Credit is hosting the second annual **GROW your AgriRoots** award competition for young, beginning, small (YBS agricultural operators). This award program was created to honor outstanding farm and agribusiness owner-operators within the agricultural community, who excel in their field. Selection of winners are based on their efforts in agriculture, financial character, leadership, community involvement, participation in continuing education or training and sustainability practices.

The program will offer up to two \$10,000 awards to the top contestants and finalists will receive a \$1,000 award. The application will open on August 15, 2024 and all applications are to be **completed by midnight on September 30, 2024 to be eligible for the awards.**

Incomplete applications will not be accepted and applicants submitting incomplete applications will not be contacted. If you have any questions about this program or application, please call 979-822-7879 and ask for Allyson Tjoelker.

Deadline to apply is September 30, 2024.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be an existing or former Capital Farm Credit customer to be eligible to apply.
- Applicants must fit into at least one of the following categories:
 - be between 18 and 35 years of age
 - operate a farm, ranch, or agribusiness with annual gross ag income less than \$350,000
 - or be a beginning farmer, rancher, or agribusiness operator with 2 to 10 years of experience as of January 1, 2024
- Applicants must reside within Capital Farm Credit's territory, or you're the operations headquarters must be located within Capital Farm Credit's territory. See page 5.
- Applicants can apply as individuals or with a business partner.

- If you apply as a partnership and are selected as a recipient, the cash prize will be awarded to the primary applicant.
- Applicants will only be eligible for one Capital Farm Credit GROW your AgriRoots Award during a 12-month period of time. A minimum of five years must be skipped before a Grant winner may apply again.

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 enter. Family means 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 I

An independent panel of qualified judges will review all of the applications and select up to 10 finalists to move 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
- 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 II Finalists In-Person Interviews

The applicants selected as the 10 finalists will receive an invitation to participate in an in-person or virtual interview with the judging selection committee to answer questions and give further context to their application.

In person interviews will be held on October 22nd 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 reimbursement 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:

(Online Application Available August 15)

A full application consists of:

- Intent to apply
 - *Once an applicant submits the intent to apply, that applicant will receive access to the Emerging Leaders Institute and the business plan, balance sheet and profit and loss statements.*
- Contact Information and Bio
- Series of Essay Answers
- Completion of the Emerging Leaders Institute-Business Planning and Goal Setting Session (30 min. online course)
- Business Plan, Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement
- High Resolution Photo (.jpg or .png)
- Letter of Recommendation
- Submit a business plan and goals. Applicants must use the Capital Farm Credit Business Plan template. The business plan will be evaluated in the Agriculture Growth section of the scoring matrix.
- Submit a completed balance sheet. Applicants must use the Capital Farm Credit balance sheet template. The balance sheet will be evaluated in the Financial Character section of the scoring matrix.
- Submit a profit and loss statement. Applicants must use the Capital Farm Credit profit and loss statement template. The profit and loss statement will be evaluated in the Financial Character section of the scoring matrix.
- Applicants must complete the Business Planning and Goal Setting portion of the Capital Farm Credit Emerging Leaders Institute(ELI) online training(*est. 30 min. to completion time*). Access to the course will be provided upon approval of the application. Applicants may also participate in one of two Zoom sessions hosted by ELI Success coaches.
- Submit a high-resolution photo (.jpg or .png)

- Submit a Letter of Recommendation. The letter must include the provider's name, title, address, email address, phone number, and relationship to the applicant and must not be dated prior to September 30th. Family members, Farm Credit staff, or Farm Credit directors are not eligible to write letters of recommendation.

Applicants without existing operating loans with Capital Farm Credit may be asked to provide additional financial information to complete the application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and applicants submitting incomplete applications will not be contacted. If you have any questions about this program or application, please call 979-822-7879 and ask for Allyson Tjoelker.

