



GROW your AgriRoots Grant Competition *Rewarding the Next Generation of Agriculture*

Are you new to farming, ranching, or agribusiness 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 you should apply for a Farmers on the Rise Grant for a chance at a \$10,000 prize!

Capital Farm Credit is excited to add the inaugural **GROW your AgriRoots** Grant competition for young, beginning, small (YBS agricultural operators). This grant competition was created to help new farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness operators 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 competition will offer up to two \$10,000 grants. Top applicants and finalists will receive a \$1,000 stipend. 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 grants.**

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

Deadline to apply is September 30, 2024.

Eligibility

- Applicant does not need to 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 less than 2 years of experience or planning to start an operation in the next calendar year.
- Applicants 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 can apply as individuals or with a business partner.

- If applicants 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 grant during a 12-month period of time. Once an applicant wins a Grant, they become ineligible to compete another time for the Grant, but may compete in the GROW your AgriRoots Award Division if all other eligibility criteria are met.
- 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 One

An independent panel of qualified judges will review all of the applications and select the top 10 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 In-Person Interviews

The applicants selected as top 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 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 available **August 15**.

- Complete and submit a full application. 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.*
 - Bio and Contact Information
 - Series of Essays
 - Complete Emerging Leaders Institute
 - Submit Business Plan, Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement
- Complete the Capital Farm Credit Emerging Leaders Institute training. 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 est. 4 hours to complete and will support applicants in the development of a business plan, balance sheet and profit and loss statements.
- Create and submit a business plan. Applicants must use the Capital Farm Credit business plan template. Business plans will be evaluated in the Agriculture and Growth section of the scoring matrix.
- Submit a balance sheet. Applicants must use the Capital Farm Credit balance sheet template.
Balance sheets will be evaluated in the Financial and Business Character section of the scoring matrix.
- Submit a profit and loss statement. Applicants must use the Capital Farm Credit profit and loss statement. Profit and Loss statements will be evaluated in the Financial Character section of the scoring matrix.
- Submit a high-resolution photo (.jpg or .png)

- 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 30th. Family members, Farm Credit staff, or Farm Credit directors are not eligible to write letters of recommendation.

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

