



Charles B. Shuman Fund

Administered by the IAA Foundation

The *Charles B. Shuman Fund* seeks to strengthen and enhance farming, agriculture, and rural communities through grants made to eligible individuals, groups, and organizations that demonstrate high moral values and integrity.

Furthermore, the *Fund* will support educational, research, and leadership development activities that benefit farming and promote choices in agricultural production and marketing.



Charles Baker Shuman

1907 to 1999

Charles B. Shuman was born on a farm in East Nelson Township, Moultrie County, Illinois. He attended a one-room country school, graduated from Sullivan (IL) High School, and received his BS and MS degrees in agricultural economics and agronomy from the University of Illinois.

He started farming in 1929, and immediately realized the many needs of farmers and farm families. He helped organize local electric and grain cooperatives, as well as the first consolidated school district in the county. He was an early hybrid seed corn producer, a breeder of Duroc hogs and Angus cattle, and became involved in local livestock marketing and production credit cooperatives.

Shuman served as county, state, and national Farm Bureau president. During his 34 years of Farm Bureau leadership, he fought hard and successfully to steer government agricultural policy toward a free-market system and away from the socialistic production and price controls of the previous 30 years.

He retired as American Farm Bureau President in 1970, but continued to build his track record of strong leadership on religious, corporate, and higher education boards. He was in demand as a public speaker and wrote frequent letters to editors as well as a column for the local newspaper. A committed Christian, he taught Sunday school at the Sullivan United Methodist Church for 65 years.

Shuman was the epitome of a leader, farmer, citizen, husband, and father with outstanding moral character. He was humble, dedicated, courageous, insightful, and very respected by all from neighbors to U.S. Presidents.

The *Charles B. Shuman Fund* was established to honor his memory, to recognize his contributions, and to support the types of programs and activities that reflect his values and beliefs.

Grant Application Guidelines

An application form is not required. Proposals should be made in letter form and should include the following information:

Guidelines for Organizations and Groups

1. A description of the proposed project, activity, or cause and how the request will fulfill the specific interests of the *Fund*.
2. A description of how results will be measured and reported to the IAA Foundation.
3. A statement of the organization's purpose, programs, and accomplishments. Include the organization's financial statement.
4. The budget, including expenses and income, for the proposed activity or project.
5. Evidence of tax-exempt status and that the organization is not a private foundation. Include a description of its staffing and governing board.
6. A brief letter of support from their county's Farm Bureau president.

Guidelines for Individuals

1. Grant amounts between \$1,500 and \$3,000 will be considered.
2. A description of the proposed project, activity, or cause and how the request will fulfill the specific interests of the *Fund*.
3. A description of how results will be measured and reported to the IAA Foundation.
4. The budget, including expenses and income, for the proposed activity or project.
5. Two letters of personal reference that address the applicant's moral character and ability to successfully complete the project or activity.
6. A brief letter of support from their county's Farm Bureau president.

Individuals, groups, and organizations that seek support from the *Charles B. Shuman Fund* are encouraged to make an informal inquiry before submitting a full proposal (e-mail is acceptable: smoore@ilfb.org). All written grant inquiries and full proposals should be directed to:

Charles B. Shuman Fund
The IAA Foundation
1701 Towanda Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Grant proposals may be submitted at any time during the year. Proposals received by February 1 will be considered at the March Board of Trustees meeting. Proposals received by September 1 will be considered at the autumn Board of Trustees meeting.

The IAA Foundation may request additional information from an applicant. If a proposal clearly is not within the *Fund's* giving interests or financial guidelines, the applicant will be notified.

There are two broad purposes of the Fund:

1. To promote the study and research of agricultural policy and farm management issues in order to develop strategies that enhance the ability of independent agricultural producers to thrive in a dynamic economy; and
2. To provide assistance to individuals, groups, and organizations that wish to develop and implement local, regional, and national policies that will improve the economic well being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family and rural community life.

Specific Interests and Grant Opportunities

Agricultural Graduate Scholarships and Research Grants

Financial support is available for graduate students whose studies, research, or thesis topics are related to:

1. Agricultural policy
2. Agricultural marketing infrastructure
3. Domestic and international trade of agricultural products
4. Seed technology issues
5. Agricultural production and management practices

Leadership Development and Farm Policy Fellowship

The purpose of this category is to develop local, regional, and national agricultural leaders who will work to create and implement agricultural policies that assure management choices for farmers and long-term profitability of independent agricultural producers in a free market production system. Financial support is available for individuals, groups, and organizations who wish to:

1. Improve their leadership skills and increase their knowledge of agricultural issues;
2. Implement strategies that increase available free market management choices that will be profitable for family farms;
3. Build coalitions that will work to enhance the long-lasting viability and prosperity of the family farm;
4. Develop economic opportunities for farmers and rural communities; and
5. Improve the quality of life in the rural community.

Examples of groups that may seek funds include, but are not limited to:

1. County Farm Bureaus
2. Watershed groups or coalitions
3. Chambers of Commerce
4. Leadership development programs
5. Rural churches
6. Farmer groups organized as marketing or buying cooperatives
7. Rural food banks or nutrition programs