The **IAA Foundation** offers college scholarships to students of Illinois farm families who major in agriculture-related courses of study. We proudly administer scholarships on behalf of families and agriculture partners to help assure a well-qualified, professional agricultural workforce in Illinois.

For 2027, the IAA Foundation targets awarding more than $350,000 in support.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Application and guidelines can be found on the IAA Foundation website, along with a full listing of eligibility requirements and a *FAQ* section. For additional information email jsmith@ilfb.org
Applications become available on January 1 and must be electronically submitted by **11:59pm on February 15, 2027.**

**GENERAL ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants may be previous recipients of an IAA Foundation scholarship, though certain scholarships restrict the number of times an applicant can receive an award. All applicants must be a high school graduate or be graduating in 2027 and must be accepted or currently enrolled at an accredited college, university, community college or trade school. While applicants may be considered for multiple awards, they can only receive one scholarship per program year. Applicants may not be spouse, child, sibling, grandchild, son/daughter-in-law, of an IAA Foundation trustee, employee, or current member of the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors. ***Carefully read each scholarship for specific requirements, limitations, and guidelines.**

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:** In addition to individual scholarship eligibility guidelines, selection of recipients is based on: Activities and Involvement, Financial Plan, Essay Response, Personal Statements and in some cases, Academic Performance.

**TERMS:** All scholarship funds are sent to the designated institution prior to the beginning of the academic year and are applied to tuition and fees. Recipients are not restricted from pursuing and accepting other forms of financial aid, assistance, or tuition waivers.

## *Scholarships Available in 2027*

**Allen and Ellen M. Blessman Scholarships**
Fifteen $1,000 scholarships – *Mr. Blessman was a longtime farmer in Mason County; supporting agricultural education was a priority in his charitable wishes.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be an Agricultural Education major with intent to pursue teaching licensure.
- Must be accepted to or currently attending an accredited institution in Illinois.

**Alvin Eigenrauch Memorial Scholarship**
One $2,000 scholarship- *Alvin Eigenrauch was a teacher, a conservationist, and a lifelong Washington County Farm Bureau member.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Must be an incoming junior or senior attending Southern Illinois University (Carbondale/Edwardsville)

**Cashford Farm Youth Scholarships**
Two $2,000 scholarships - *Established through a bequest by Pearl H. Cashford, a longtime resident of Douglas County who was engaged in business in downtown Tuscola for many years.*

- Must be pursuing an agriculture related major at an accredited institution
- Must be a member/dependent member of the Moultrie-Douglas Farm Bureau and reside in Moultrie or Douglas county

**Charles B. Shuman Graduate Scholarship**
One $2,500 scholarship - *Established to recognize Mr. Shuman's contributions and reflect his values.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be a MS or PhD student with research relating to agriculture policy, agriculture marketing infrastructure, trade of agricultural products, seed technology issues or agriculture production/management practices

**Charles B. Shuman Memorial Scholarship**
One $1,000 scholarship - *Established to honor Mr. Shuman's roots in agriculture.*

- Must be pursuing an agriculture related major at an accredited institution
- Must be a member/dependent member of the Moultrie-Douglas Farm Bureau and reside in Moultrie or Douglas county

**Clifton L. Duckworth, CPA Ag Accounting 4 Tomorrow Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *Established by Clifton Duckworth to support education, and to commemorate the Illinois Agricultural Auditing Association (IAAA).*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- For incoming college juniors or above
- Major must be in Agri-accounting/accounting, with preference to students from a farming background or those interested in pursuing an accounting career that services the agricultural industry

**Culver Family Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *Helping ensure agriculture's future by supporting promising students in reaching their education and career goals.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Preference given to students majoring in Agricultural Education or Horticulture
- Preference given to students who exhibit exemplary leadership as demonstrated on the application

**Dale E. Butz Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *Established to honor Mr. Butz's distinguished career by developing agricultural leaders.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Must have a background in production agriculture as demonstrated on the application

**Dwain Ford Memorial Soybean Scholarship**

One $1,250 scholarship- *Established in memory of a long-time leader of the soybean industry.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Must demonstrate current/former active involvement in 4-H and FFA

**Elbert and Mary Elsbury Scholarships**

Three $2,000 scholarships- *Established through a bequest to encourage the pursuit of higher education and careers in agriculture.*

- Must be studying agriculture, home economics or related field
- Three equal scholarships awarded with recipients meeting the following:
    - One to a Lake County Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member and resident of Lake County Illinois
    - One to a graduating senior of Warren Township High School, Gurnee, IL (Farm Bureau membership not required)
    - One to a Lake County Farm Bureau member/dependent of member who is a member/alum of a Lake County 4-H Club

**Gene A. Daiber Scholarships**

Targeting $110,000 in awards - *Established to honor Gene Daiber who embodied the values of hard work and careful stewardship. His generosity celebrates his legacy and enriches the honorable work of the American farmer, while investing in future generations.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture or a closely related field
- Must be a resident from Madison, St. Clair or Bond County, with majority of annual awards to Madison County applicants

**Greg Carney Scholarship**

One $1,500 scholarship - *Established to honor Greg Carney, a Farm Bureau employee, and University of Illinois graduate.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Must be actively involved in production agriculture in a family farm operation and must be a current/former active 4-H member

**H.R. Beeson Scholarship**

One $1,500 scholarship – *Established to honor Harry Richey Beeson, an Illinois farmer, agricultural educator, and soil conservationist.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field at an Illinois institution
- Preference given to students from Clay, Crawford, and Macon counties

**Harris Thomas Scholarship**

Up to ten scholarships- *This legacy fund honors Ewell and Josephine Harris; Frank and Jacqueline Thomas.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Preference to students who reside in southern Illinois, defined as south of Springfield
- Must be majoring in agriculture or a closely related field at a public institution, *excluding* the University of Illinois
- Up to five $2,000 awards to undergraduate students
- Up to five awards ranging from $2,500-$5,000 each for MS or PhD students

**Heartland NAMA Steven A. Hammerschmidt Memorial Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *Established by the Heartland Chapter in memory of Steven A. Hammerschmidt, a long-time agri-marketing professional with GROWMARK and a Heartland Chapter leader.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be an incoming undergraduate junior or senior majoring in agriculture or a closely related field
- Must attend an Illinois institution with an active NAMA chapter in the Heartland region: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, or Illinois State University

**Herman E. Wiedle and Cecilia E. Wiedle Scholarships**

Three $2,000 scholarships - *With a gift of farmland, the Wiedle's support students in their home community with these scholarships.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Open to any major
- Must be a resident of Clinton County, Illinois

**IAA Foundation Distinguished Scholarships**

Three $5,000 scholarships –*Recognizes excellent students who are committed to agriculture.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must major in agriculture, agribusiness, or an ag-related field at an Illinois institution
- (1) $5,000 to an incoming Sophomore, (1) $5,000 to an incoming Junior, (1) $5,000 to an incoming Senior/Graduate
- Students may only receive a Distinguished Scholarship once (former Top Scholars are ineligible to apply)

**IAA Foundation Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship awarded in honor of Prairie Farms Dairy Leadership

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must major in agriculture, agribusiness, or an ag-related field at an Illinois institution

**Illinois Award Scholarship**

One $2,500 scholarship - A*n anonymous donor closely tied to Illinois Farm Bureau, seeks to improve leadership skills in agriculture.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be an incoming freshman majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Priority given to students from Cass, Morgan, Stark and Henry counties

**Illinois Collegiate Farm Bureau Scholarships**

Eight $1,000 scholarships – *Given to encourage students to stay active and engaged with Farm Bureau during their college years.*

- Must have your own Illinois Farm Bureau membership, and be an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Must be an active member of an Illinois Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter and may only receive this scholarship once

**Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership Scholarship**

One $10,000 scholarship – *Generously funded through donations from current and former IFB leaders.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must attend the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, or Illinois State University
- Must be a current sophomore who will be an incoming junior in the fall majoring in a field directly supporting the agriculture industry, and have cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher
- Must demonstrate proven leadership experience with an emphasis on collegiate activity
- Priority is given to an individual who is actively engaged in Illinois Farm Bureau activities
- ***Additional short answer is required on application***
- ***IAAF reserves the right to conduct interviews with applicants for selection of this scholarship***

**Illinois Farm Bureau Presidential Memorial Scholarship**

One $1,500 scholarship – *Honoring the past Presidents who shaped and influenced Illinois Farm Bureau through their leadership.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be an incoming college senior majoring in a field that directly supports the agriculture industry at an Illinois institution
- Proven leadership demonstrated by offices held in clubs/organizations and emphasis placed on Internship/Work Experience

**Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association Scholarship**

One $2,500 scholarship and four $1,500 scholarships – *Investing in the next generation of crop production supply and service industry students to build a workforce that is committed to the sound stewardship of agricultural inputs.*

- Must be an Illinois resident
- Preference to students pursuing a career in the crop production supply and service industry
- Students may only receive this scholarship once in their academic career

**J. Lloyd & Elizabeth Broaddus Jones Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship – *Under its 6th generation of family ownership, B&J Farms created this scholarship to pay tribute to their grandparents. Enduring the hardships of two World Wars and the Great Depression, they kept the family and the farm intact.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of member
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Must be a resident of Marshall or Putnam County in Illinois

**Jean Stubblefield Memorial Scholarships**

Up to four scholarships - *Jean's legacy farm supports students pursuing careers that care for animals.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Two $1,500 awards to undergraduates majoring in Animal Science or Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Three $5,000 awards to applicants enrolled in a school of Veterinary Medicine with preference to students whose area of interest applies to dogs, cattle, sheep, or swine

**Joe and Sue Summerville Scholarship**

Two $2,000 scholarships – Recognizing the vital role agriculture has in feeding communities and sustaining the economy.

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member
- Must be a graduating high school senior pursuing an agriculture related major at an accredited institution
- One recipient must be a resident of Champaign County and one recipient must be a resident of Douglas County

**Kenneth and Kay Engle Agriculture Scholarships**

Two $2,000 scholarships – *By supporting young men and women in the pursuit of careers in agriculture, this scholarship honors a family with a long agriculture legacy and recognizes Ken's leadership in Farm Bureau.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and Marshall County resident (if no applicants from Marshall County apply, students from Putnam and Warren counties may be considered)
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Preference given to students with financial need and an excellent academic record

**Leonard C. Zimmerly Memorial Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *Honors Leonard Zimmerly, a teacher, farmer, and proud member of Tazewell CFB who influenced many students in school and career choices.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field at a four-year institution, with a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Preference given to students attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and students from Tazewell County

**Mary Lou Diebold Memorial Scholarship**

One $1,500 scholarship - R*ecognizes the dedication and passion Ms. Diebold had for agriculture and community involvement.*

- Must be a member/dependent of a member of Lake County Farm Bureau for at least two years, Illinois residency in not required
- Open to any major, preference to a field related to agriculture at any four-year institution with a required minimum 3.0 GPA

**Pat Oaks Memorial Scholarship**

One $1,500 scholarship - R*ecognizes the remarkable tenure of a woman who was a passionate advocate for agricultural education and community engagement.*

- Must be a member/dependent of a member of Lake County Farm Bureau for at least one year
- Open to any major, with a required 3.0 GPA or higher

**Prairie Farms Dairy - Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarships**

Six $2,000 scholarships to children of current PFD patrons; six $2,000 scholarships to children of current PFD employees; two $2,000 scholarships to current PFD employees -*Established to honor Fletcher A. Gourley, Leonard J. Southwell, Roger Capps, and Edward L. Mullins for their years of leadership.*

- Illinois Farm Bureau membership is not required, Illinois residency is not required
- Open to any major and students may only receive a Prairie Farms Dairy scholarship twice
- Applicants must be children of Prairie Farms Dairy patrons or children of employees of Prairie Farms Dairy and its subsidiaries with a minimum of three years patronage/employment determined as of the application deadline date
- Applicants for employee scholarships must be current employees in good standing at the time of the award

**Promoting Careers in Agriculture Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *Established to support individuals who can effectively and efficiently get the job done.*

- Must be an Illinois resident, however, Farm Bureau membership is not required
- Must exhibit potential for completion of an agriculture trade related degree or certification at an accredited institution
- May only be a recipient of this scholarship once

**Robert E. Koeller Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship – *For his love of making agriculture a better way of life, his leadership in Farm Bureau, and his generous ways of helping others, this scholarship pays tribute to the life of Robert E. Koeller.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member
- Must be a resident of Bond, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin or Madison County in Illinois
- Students must be majoring in an agriculture-related field

**Robert F. Rouse Scholarship**

Six $2,500 scholarships - *Established in memory of Robert F. Rouse, who closely associated with Illinois Farm Bureau in Lake County.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Preference to Lake County residents
- Applicants must be majoring in nursing or an agriculture related major

**Rollo Burnett Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *Established to support future generations of agriculturalists in Massac County.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member in Massac county, and an Illinois resident
- Must be pursuing an agriculture related major at an accredited four-year institution

**Sandhu Minority in Agriculture Scholarship**

One $3,001 scholarship – *Created to help meet the demand for innovation and to foster an agriculture industry which more closely represents the world it feeds.*

- Must be an Illinois resident, however, Illinois Farm Bureau membership is not required
- Must be pursuing an agriculture or STEM related major with intent to pursue an agriculture related career
- Must be a racial minority

**Sara C. Andrews Memorial Scholarships**

Two $1,000 scholarships and two $2,500 scholarships - *Established to honor Sara C. Andrews, who was deeply rooted in Illinois, in her farm and in her family.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field at an Illinois institution
- Two $1,000 awards to incoming freshman, two $2,500 awards to incoming juniors
- Preference given to students actively engaged in agriculture on a family farm operation

**Six Generations Illinois Farming Scholarships**

Two $2,500 scholarships – *Established to benefit agriculture students from Tazewell County.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident within Tazewell County
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field

**Steve and Marilyn Willits Memorial Scholarship**

Two $1,000 scholarships (renewable)- *Established to honor the memory of Steven L. and Marilyn I. Willits who worked tirelessly to create a successful farm enterprise.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member, spouse or child of member, and an Illinois resident of Mercer County
- Must be an incoming freshman majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Awardees are eligible to renew and receive an additional $1,000 as an incoming sophomore upon successful maintenance requirements and a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better

**Thomas E. and Mary Morgan Lykins Scholarship**

One $2,000 scholarship - *Established to help fulfill the dreams and transform the lives of well-deserving students.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be an undergraduate pursuing an agriculture or closely related major
- Preference given to academically strong students who have held leadership roles

**Twin Creek Family Farm Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *A family scholarship supporting youth who are interested in agriculture.*

- Illinois Farm Bureau membership is not required
- Must be an incoming freshman majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field
- Must be an Edgar County, Illinois resident

**Vincent O. Greene Memorial Scholarships**

Five $2,000 scholarships - *A legacy that supports agriculture students who demonstrate qualities of leadership and citizenship.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field

**Wilbert and Carol Keppy Memorial Scholarships**

Five $2,000 scholarships – *Honoring a couple that was instrumental in promoting pork and making a better life for hog farmers in Illinois.*

- Must be an Illinois resident, Illinois Farm Bureau membership is not required
- Must be pursuing an undergraduate degree at an accredited institution
- Must be a member/dependent of a member of the Illinois Pork Producers Association
- Preference given to students with intent to pursue an occupation in/related to the pork industry
- Students may only receive this scholarship once in their academic career
- **Additional short answer required on the application**

**William J. Kuhfuss Memorial Scholarship**

One $1,000 scholarship - *Established to honor Mr. Kuhfuss for his many years of leadership in agriculture.*

- Must be an Illinois Farm Bureau member/dependent of a member, and an Illinois resident
- Must be majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, or a closely related field at an Illinois institution
- Preference given to students from an agricultural background or working toward an occupation in/related to agriculture