



ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM

Summary

Agricultural Education Teachers who entered their first year into the workforce in the current school year as a traditionally licensed educator are eligible to apply for this Five-Year Grant Program which will provide an increased level of supplemental personal income over the course of the program. It is the goal of this program to encourage Agricultural Education Teachers to continue in the profession and help bolster Agriculture Education in Illinois.

Each program year, four Agricultural Education Teachers will be accepted into the grant program. Upon successful re-application, which includes meeting annual eligibility requirements, each initial awardee will receive additional increased grant awards for the next four years of their teaching career, receiving \$10,000 in total. *Recipients of Grants are responsible for reporting the taxable income.*

| Years as Teacher | Annual Grant |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| YEAR 1 | \$1,000 |
| YEAR 2 | \$1,500 |
| YEAR 3 | \$2,000 |
| YEAR 4 | \$2,500 |
| YEAR 5 | \$3,000 |
| TOTAL PER TEACHER | \$10,000 |

Eligibility

- *Open to first-year, full-time teachers with a minimum of 50% agriculture related courses and activities.*
- *Open to traditionally licensed (Professional Educator License-PEL) teachers with an Agricultural Education Degree from a four-year university*
- *Must be teaching at a school in Illinois*
- *Must maintain an IAVAT membership*
- *Must continue a successful path as an agriculture teacher in Illinois*

Continued Program Eligibility

Once admitted into the grant program, candidates are eligible for an increased grant for the next four years. Criteria for continued eligibility include:

- *Must maintain traditional license (Professional Educator License-PEL)*
- *Must be teaching full-time with a minimum of 50% agriculture related courses and activities*
- *Must be teaching at a school in Illinois*
- *Must maintain an IAVAT membership*
- *Must show continued growth and success addressing short and long term personal and professional goals*

Application Procedure

Eligible teachers will receive an invitation to apply online. Applicants will need to provide a reference from current high school administration, as well as a character reference. Both will be attachments submitted electronically.

Award Criteria

Eligible teachers will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- **Commitment to Agricultural Education** (IAVAT committees, teacher professional development, commitment to the profession, and to professional growth)
- **Financial Need:** Consideration to both personal and school finances
- **Future Program Goals:** Development of short-term and long-term goals and objectives for local agriculture program

Timeline

- *Application window opens each April*
- *All eligible 1st year through 5th year teachers will be contacted directly with an invitation to apply*
- *Application must be submitted online by June 1, no exceptions*
- *Successful candidates will receive first grant award in September*
- *Once admitted into the grant program, candidates are eligible for an increased grant for the next four years. Candidates will receive a re-application link each April and be reviewed based on the above criteria.*
- *Successful re-applicants receive funding in August*

Partners

The need for an agriculture teacher retention incentive program was first identified and realized through Illinois Farm Bureau Strength with Advisory Teams (SWAT). With a generous contribution from Illinois Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is pleased to administer the grants. Additionally, Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education (FCAE) provides advisory and technical assistance to ensure program success and fulfillment of the twelve-year initiative.



Contact

For additional information on application procedure, please contact:
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