2019-2020 Agriculture Education Incentive Grant

Overview: The 2019-2020 Agriculture Education Incentive Grant is an initiative to promote agricultural education in public school districts across New York State. A skilled labor force is critical to the growth of the agricultural sector of New York State’s economy and this can only be accomplished by educating the future labor force—our youth—on agricultural careers and services. Through the generous support of the Department of Agriculture & Markets, the New York State Governor’s Office, Cornell University, and the tireless effort of New York Farm Bureau, the Empire State Coalition of Agricultural Organizations, and the New York Association of Agricultural Education, the Agriculture Education Incentive Grant will award a total of $350,000 to eligible and qualified New York State schools during the 2019-2020 school year.

Purpose: The purpose of the 2019-2020 Agriculture Education Incentive grant is to provide funding to new and growing agricultural education programs that are struggling to secure necessary resources for a high-quality agricultural education program. These resources may include, but are not limited to: curriculum development, professional development, program development, resource acquisitions, and program coordination.

Eligibility: There are two categories of schools eligible for this funding: 1) New agricultural education program and 2) Growing agricultural education programs.

In terms of this grant, a “school” is defined by the United States Department of Education as a Local Educational Agency (LEA) where a public board of education is legally constituted within a State for the direction of schools in a city, county, township, school district or other political subdivision. Listed below is the description of eligibility requirements in order to be considered for this grant:

1. A “New Agricultural Education program” is defined by the following criteria:
   a. Must have a unique School Identification Number according to the National Center for Education Statistics (to see if you meet this criteria, please click HERE).
   b. A school committed to implementing an agricultural education program that utilizes the three-circle model of agricultural education (Classroom Instruction; FFA; Supervised Agricultural Experience) over the course of the next three school years.

   AND

   i. A new school that has started teaching at least one agricultural education course in their LEA between September 1, 2018 and October 1, 2019.
   OR

   ii. A school representative contacts the State Agricultural Education and Outreach office to notify the state staff (ksiddall@cornell.edu, slighthall@cornell.edu, or dhill@cornell.edu) of their intent to start an agricultural education program and intend to offer at least one agriculture class in the 2020-2021 school year.

If you believe your school qualifies as a “New Program” for this grant and would like to apply, click HERE now!
2. A “Growing Agricultural Education program” is defined by the following criteria:
   a. Must have a unique School Identification Number according to the National Center for Education Statistics (to see if you meet this criteria, please click HERE).  
      AND
   b. A school that offered two or more agricultural education classes prior to September 1, 2018.

If you believe your school qualifies as a “Growing Program” for this grant and would like to apply, click HERE now!
Agriculture Education Incentive Grant Timeline

**September 2019:** The 2019-2020 Agriculture Education Incentive Grants will be promoted and available online on the website [www.nysffa.org](http://www.nysffa.org).

**October 18, 2019:** Applications for the *Agricultural Education Incentive Grant for Growing Programs* grants are due by 11:59 PM EST.

**November 2019:** Application review and evaluation for Growing Programs

**Early December 2019:** Grant decisions for Growing Agriculture Education programs will be announced. Grant contracts will be sent to programs offered funds.

**December 20, 2019:** Applications for the *Agricultural Education Incentive Grant for New Programs* grants are due by 11:59 PM EST.

**January 2020:** Application review and evaluation for New Programs

**February 2020:** Funds will be delivered to schools who have agreed to the grant contract.

**May 14-16, 2020:** Recipients of the *Agricultural Education Incentive Grant for New Programs* will send 2 representatives (preferably 1 adult and 1 student) to participate in the 2020 State FFA Convention at the OnCenter in Syracuse, NY. *Please note that the grant program will be offered one day during the convention and the date will be announced later this school year. Registration/meals for the 1 day event will be covered by the Agricultural Education and Outreach program.*

**June 2020:** School Reporting is due to the Agricultural Education and Outreach program for both *Agricultural Education Incentive Grant for New and Growing Programs*. 