Texas Department of Agriculture
Texas Agricultural Finance Authority
Young Farmer Grant (YFG) Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What's the YFG program?
A. It is a program that provides grants to eligible young farmers to create or enhance agricultural enterprises in Texas.

Q. How do I apply?
A. Fill out the application available online at the Texas Department of Agriculture's Web site www.TexasAgriculture.gov and submit it to TAFA for consideration.

Q. Is it for me?
A. Grant applications will be accepted from any person who is at least 18 years of age but younger than 46 years of age and engaged in creating or expanding agriculture in Texas. The applicant must be able to make dollar-for-dollar matching expenditures to sustain, create or expand the project.

Q. Are there grant limits?
A. The TAFA Board can make awards ranging from $5,000 not to exceed $10,000.

Q. Will everyone get a grant?
A. There are no guarantees. Grants will be based on available funds, scoring criteria, the proposed use of grant funds and other application material.
The board is not required to make awards based solely on scoring or ranking of the applications, and may consider other factors, including:

- the quality of the application;
- applicant's need for financial assistance;
- the project's ability to
  - -create, enhance or sustain the applicant's agricultural operation;
  - -improve overall agricultural productivity in Texas; and
  - -increase the number of agricultural enterprises in Texas that are owned and operated by young farmers.

Q. How often are grants awarded?
A. The TAFA board will set two periods in each fiscal year (early winter and summer) in which the authority will receive and approve grant applications.
Application dates can be found at www.TexasAgriculture.gov.

Q. Any restrictions on grant money?
A. Grants may not be used for capital expenditures with a cost of more than $5,000 or a useful life of more than one year. Operating expenses for contract labor, seed, fertilizer, livestock, feed and fuel are all eligible expenses.

Q. May I use a grant to reimburse for my own labor?
A. Grant funds may not be used to reimburse the value of your personal labor or services. The costs of hired labor specific to your project may qualify for grant funding.

Q. If I'm selected to receive a grant, may I apply again?
A. Yes! An applicant who has not received a grant will score higher on related criteria; however, this should not discourage anyone from making application in subsequent periods.

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