

2018 Ag Promotion Grant Program

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation is pleased to offer the Ag Promotion Grant Program to our County Farm Bureaus for the promotion of agriculture in Minnesota again in 2017-18. (*This is different from the Ignite Grant program.*) County Farm Bureaus may apply for funding up to \$800 to develop and implement an activity or event that addresses one or more of the following **Minnesota Farmers CARE** priority areas which include: Animals, Environment, Food Safety, and Families **OR** addresses member engagement programs such as leadership education, consumer education, and farm safety (*adult & youth*). Ideas may include farm tours and breakfast events, classroom visits, county fair activities, displays, etc. This is a competitive grant program and full funding is not guaranteed.

When selecting a Minnesota Farmers CARE Priority area your focus should be as follows:

- ✓ Animal Care: Raising awareness of the ethical animal Care provided by MINNESOTA farmers.
- ✓ Environment: Farmers are conservationists and good stewards of our natural resources (*land & water*).
- ✓ Food Safety: Teaching others what farmers do to ensure we have a safe, wholesome food supply.
- ✓ Families: Bring focus on farm family involvement in their communities / good neighbor practices / we want the same things for our families as non-farmers want for theirs.

It is important to note that we are not emphasizing the economic importance of livestock as it is not an effective message with most consumers. Economic contributions of livestock can be part of your project but should not be the main focus.

Qualifications and Grant Details:

- Counties **must** send one or more representatives to the 2018 LEAP Conference (formerly known as the Leadership Conference) in Red Wing, January 26-27, 2018.
- Only \$200 of the grant money can be used for registration at the 2018 LEAP Conference. A member of a state committee (YF&R or P&E) cannot be your county representative at the LEAP Conference.
- Counties will receive the first half of their approved funding after they attend the 2018 LEAP Conference. The remaining amount will be distributed after all county Final Reports are submitted.
- The Ag Promotion Grant program which you receive funding for must be completed by July 31, 2018.
- Following the event, a brief Final Report **MUST** be submitted. All reports are due August 31, 2018.
- Failure to submit a Final Report will result in second portion of grant not being disbursed and your county will be ineligible the following year!
- Limit one grant per county per year.
- Grant dollars cannot support events that include lobbying (*i.e. Day on the Hill*).
- Applications that do not clearly adhere to the intent of this grant will not be funded.
- **The Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation logo must be used at your event, on your project and in your publicity.** (*Ruth Meirick will email the logo upon request.*)
- Late applications will not be accepted.
- **Applications are scored on completeness and detail.** If grants are not completed completely with detail funding will be automatically reduced.
- Final reporting forms will be mailed with the first disbursement of funds.
- Unused grant dollars must be returned to the MFBF Foundation or final payment will be reduced.
- Application and final reporting form can also be found at www.fbmn.org.



If you have questions about whether or not an activity would qualify, call 651-768-2115 or e-mail Ruth Meirick, Foundation Director, at ruth.meirick@fbmn.org. Interested counties must **complete the attached application form and return it to:** Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Attn: Michelle DeGeest, PO Box 64370, St. Paul, MN 55164 or via email to michelle.degeest@fbmn.org.

Timeline:

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| • December 15, 2017 | 2017-18 Ag Promotion Grant Applications Deadline |
| • January 26-27, 2018 | 2018 MFBF LEAP Conference |
| • July 31, 2018 | Deadline for completing events |
| • August 31, 2018 | Final report due at the state office |