



2017-2018 Agriculture Education Incentive Grant

Overview: The 2017-2018 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 for the first time during the 2017-2018 school year.

Purpose: The purpose of the 2017-2018 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 programs 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, 2015 and October 1, 2017.

OR
 - ii. A *school representative* has contacted the State Agricultural Education and Outreach office to notify the state staff (dhill@cornell.edu or slighthall@cornell.edu) of their intent to start an agricultural education program by October 1, 2017 and intend to offer at least one agriculture class in the 2018-2019 school year.
 - c. 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. An active FFA chapter number recognized with both the state and national FFA organizations.

AND

- i. A school that offered agricultural education classes by a certified agricultural education teacher prior to September 1, 2015.

AND/OR

- ii. A school that had an active FFA chapter and charter during the 2014-2015 school year.
- c. 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 2017: The Agriculture Education Incentive Grant review committee will finalize the grant application process and approve the application/timeline.

October 2, 2017: The Agriculture Education Incentive Grant will be promoted and available online on the website www.nysffa.org.

November 15, 2017: Application deadline for all **New** Agriculture Education programs.

December 1, 2017: Application deadline for all **Growing** Agriculture Education programs.

January 2018: Grant decisions for both New and Growing Agriculture Education programs will be announced. Grant contracts will be sent to programs offered funds.

March 2018: Funds will be delivered to schools who have agreed to the grant contract.

May 2018: School Reporting is due to the New York FFA Association. New Program Agriculture Education Incentive Grant recipients will be recognized and are expected to attend the State FFA Convention.