
YOUTH AGRICULTURE EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM SUMMARY

June 2021

This document is provided as a summary only. Full details can be found in the Youth Agriculture Education Grant Program's Terms and Conditions and the Funding List available online at CAP.Alberta.ca

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Youth Agriculture Education Program supports industry and educators with the development and delivery of effective programs that are science-based, topic-driven and curricular-linked. These programs help students use critical thinking to engage in meaningful and informed conversations about issues that affect public trust in agriculture.

The Youth Agriculture Education Program is a program under the Public Trust Program theme funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). This program supports the development of new programs or the expansion of existing programs that educate students in the K-12 system and help build further public trust in the agriculture and agri-food industries in Alberta.

COLLABORATIVE AND INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO AG EDUCATION

The Youth Agriculture Education Program encourages a collaborative and innovative approach between commodity groups, other agriculture industry groups, education not-for-profits and education organizations like school districts, colleges and universities. By supporting collaboration and developing innovative projects, the Youth Agriculture Education Program will help organizations develop new or expand existing programs, gain broader reach and influence public trust in agriculture more effectively. To achieve this, the Youth Agriculture Education Program will focus on:

- > **Curricular-linked programs:** all programs should have direct links supporting Alberta Education programs of study.
- > **Topic-based programs:** programs are encouraged to focus on topics linked to public trust in agriculture like water quality, soil health, animal welfare, climate change, biodiversity and biosecurity, as opposed to commodity-specific programming.
- > **Current educational practices:** teachers look for supplementary programs based on both the content of the program and how it is delivered. Programs are encouraged to use current techniques like inquiry-based and project-based learning that encourage critical thinking and address cross-curricular competencies.
- > **Best practices in evaluation:** while evaluation reach (numbers of students/teachers reached or numbers of resources distributed) is important, this program will encourage movement toward evaluating impact – measuring how students' and teachers' view of agriculture changes as a result of programming.

PRIMARY FOCUS

The Public Trust Youth Agriculture Education Program is intended to build public trust in agriculture by supporting the development and delivery of innovative, collaborative programs. Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that:

- > Focus on grades 7-12 as that is currently a gap that needs to be addressed in the ag education space
- > Take a "train-the-trainer" approach by increasing knowledge and capacity of teachers themselves
- > Demonstrate collaboration between industry associations/groups, not-for-profits and education organizations like school districts, universities and colleges.

All programs must focus on supplementing the kindergarten to grade 12 Alberta Education curriculum. Demonstrate clear objectives with measurable activities and deliverables.

HOW WILL THE GRANT BE ADMINISTERED?

Grant applications will be accepted continually and are subject to merit-based evaluation. The funding year is from April 1 to March 31.

**Projects must be completed by early 2023. **

REPORT REQUIREMENTS

If your application is approved, you will be required to submit a final report. Successful applications for projects over 1 year will be required to submit satisfactory status reports upon completion of the first year of the project prior to receiving the remainder of the grant. Additional status reports may be required, as stated in the applicant's grant agreement.

In addition, citations for any sources for information used in development of materials related to the project are required. Impact evaluations are also required. Further details will be provided to approved applicants.

SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants are encouraged to contact Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) who can be reached at 310-farm (3276) or CAP.PublicTrust@gov.ab.ca before submitting an application. AF can provide potential grant applicants with information about:

- > Alberta's curriculum, including where agriculture fits in core curriculum and option courses
- > Cross-curricular competencies, inquiry-based learning and current educational practices
- > Best practices in evaluation and how to demonstrate the impact of agriculture programs on students and teachers.

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