

**Texas Department of Agriculture**  
**Texas Agricultural Finance Authority**  
**Young Farmer Grant (YFG) Program**

**What are TAFE and the YFG Program?**

For the first time, the State of Texas has a grant program to help young farmers enter and remain in production agriculture. In 2009, Commissioner Todd Staples worked with the 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature to establish the TAFE Young Farmer Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance in the form of matching grant funds to young farmers interested in creating or expanding an agricultural business in this state.

TAFE was created in 1987 as a public authority within the Texas Department of Agriculture. TAFE provides financial assistance through eligible lending institutions to creditworthy individuals and businesses.

**Who is Eligible?**

- a person who is at least 18 years of age or older but younger than 46 years of age;
- an applicant who provides matching funds in the amount of not less than one dollar for each dollar of grant money received; and
- an applicant who uses the funds to either create or expand an agricultural business in this state.

**What is the Amount of These Grants?**

- The TAFE Board can make awards between \$5,000 and \$10,000

**How Do I Apply?**

TAFE will accept grant applications during two periods each year. Notice and information of these grant periods will be available at [www.TexasAgriculture.gov](http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov) and will also be published in the *Texas Register*. If an application is late or incomplete, it will not be considered.

**How Can I Use These Grants?**

- operating expenses such as seed, fertilizer and fuel;
- purchasing livestock, feed and associated costs which may include lease of land; and
- capital purchases equal to or less than \$5,000. Capital purchases that exceed \$5,000 will not be eligible.

**What Else Do I Need to Know?**

- Grants may be used in conjunction with or independent of a loan from a private source;
- Annual program funding is determined by TAFE and will vary from year to year depending on the net income and the fund balance in the Texas Agricultural Fund. Current funding will be \$300,000 per grant year (\$150,000 per grant period).

**For more information, contact:**  
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