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Texas Department of Agriculture
Texas Agricultural Finance Authority
Young Farmer Grant Program
Application

RED-300

TODD STAPLES, COMMISSIONER

TDA Austin headquarters must receive the application form no later than September 2, 2011. This is a competitive grant program, not all applications will receive funding. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name (First, MI, Last)

Mailing Address

City State Zip County

Telephone Email

Date of Birth

Do you consider your agricultural operation your fulltime or part time occupation? (Check one)
 Full-time Moving to full-time within next three years Part-time

Check the level of gross agricultural income based on previous year Schedule F tax form. (check one)
 \$0 \$1-\$50,000 \$50,001-\$150,000 \$150,001-\$250,000 \$250,001-\$350,000 Over \$350,000
 (check one) Schedule F for Farm Income is attached. Did not file a Schedule F

Please state your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from Line 37 of the 1040 Form from most recent U.S. tax return:
 Amount: \$_____ Tax Return Year: _____ State your principal occupation_____

II. CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OPERATION

Location:

How long have you owned or controlled the current operation? (check one)
 0-5 years 6-9 years 10 or more years

Describe your current agricultural operation and specify how the grant would make a difference in the prospects for your agricultural operation, if received. (200 words or less)

III. EDUCATION OR EXPERIENCE

Please describe any relevant education (i.e. identify degree program, college or university and year of graduation) or other formal agricultural-related training that provided certification.

- High School
- Some college, no degree
- College degree, identify degree program
- Advanced degree, identify degree program
- Certifications, name each
- Other (describe)

How many years experience, if any, do you have farming or ranching? Please describe your farming and ranching experience. Total years of agricultural experience _____ (State number of years). Describe below:

Operation or business	Position	Description of experience	Dates of experience (from / to)

If experience is 0-5 years, have you established a mentoring or other relationship that has furthered your knowledge and understanding of farming and ranching? (check one)

- Yes
- No

Please list those individuals below:

Mentor or Other Individual	Briefly describe their business or operation	Mentor Letter attached (circle one)
		Yes / No

Please attach a letter of recommendation confirming the relationship from each mentor listed above.

No points will be awarded in this category without attached recommendation letters.

Have you ever applied for a TAFA young farmer grant or other TAFA program? Yes No

Received Grant? Yes No

Please state any other information that you think would help qualify you for the grant. (200 words or less)

IV. PROPOSED PROJECT

If awarded, will this grant expand or diversify your operation? Yes No

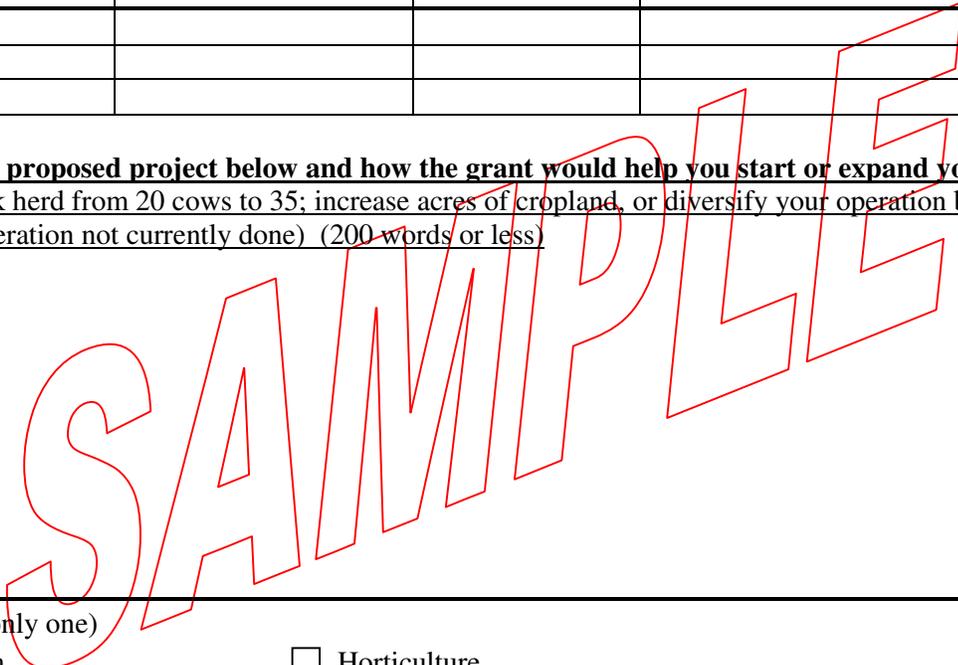
Which of the following characterizes your agricultural project?

- Start-up
- Expansion of current operation.
- Diversification of crops, livestock, or other agricultural activities not currently in your operation.
- Other, (*describe*)

The table below **must detail measurable results between current operations and the proposed project.**

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Type of Crop / Livestock</u>	<u>Production in Units</u>	<u>Description of operation/project</u>
Current Production				
YFG Proposed Project				

Please describe your proposed project below and how the grant would help you start or expand your operation. (i.e. increase livestock herd from 20 cows to 35; increase acres of cropland, or diversify your operation by adding something to your operation not currently done) (200 words or less)



Project Type (check only one)

- Crop operation
- Livestock operation
- Crop and livestock
- Aquaculture
- Horticulture
- Viticulture
- Other (*describe*) _____

Does the proposed project produce any of the items that are on the “deficit commodities” list for the state of Texas? (Please reference the online “Deficit Commodities” document.)

Check one:

- Yes
- No

If yes, name the commodity (ies): _____

Will your project create new employment? If so, please provide details indicating how many new jobs, full time or part time, etc. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF OR SPOUSE.

- Yes
- No

Indicate Number of New Jobs: Full-time _____ Part-time _____

VII. CERTIFICATIONS IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

By signing below, Applicant:

- (1) Certifies all information provided in connection with this application is true and correct to the best of Applicant’s knowledge;
- (2) Acknowledges that any misrepresentation or false statement made by Applicant, or an authorized agent of Applicant, in connection with this application, whether intentional or not, will constitute grounds for denial of this application;
- (3) Acknowledges that acceptance of funds in connection with this application acts as an acceptance of the authority of TDA and the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) or any successor agency to conduct an investigation in connection with those funds, and Applicant further agrees to cooperate fully with TDA and/or SAO or its successor in the conduct of such audit or investigation, including providing all requested records, cooperating with and providing interviews, and allowing TDA and/or SAO to inspect Applicant’s premises;
- (4) Acknowledges that this application and any funds awarded to Applicant as a result of this application may be reduced or denied because Applicant owes a debt to the State of Texas, and if Applicant is an individual, this application and any funds awarded to Applicant as a result of this application may be denied because of delinquency in payment of a guaranteed student loan or for failure to pay child support;
- (5) Acknowledges that Applicant will be required to execute a grant agreement with the Texas Department of Agriculture, and that failure to timely execute the grant agreement will result in denial of the application and withdrawal of any grant funds awarded;
- (6) Certifies that Applicant does not and will not knowingly employ an undocumented worker who, at the time of employment, is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States or authorized under law to be employed in that manner in the United States. Applicant understands that if, after receiving a grant, Applicant is convicted of a violation under 8 U.S.C. Section 1324a(f), Applicant shall repay the amount of the grant with interest, at the rate and according to the other terms provided by an agreement under Section 2264.053 of the Texas Government Code, not later than the 120th day after the date of the public agency, state or local taxing jurisdiction, or economic development corporation notifies Applicant of the violation;
- (7) Certifies that no state or federal tax liens have been filed against Applicant or Applicant’s property; and
- (8) Certifies that Applicant has not been convicted of any felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
- (9) **Acknowledges that pursuant to the Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS), if applicant fails to comply with any condition, provision, or term of an award made as a result of this application, applicant may have to make a partial or total repayment of such award.**

Notice of Penalties: The penalty for knowingly making false statements or false entries, or attempts to secure money through fraudulent means, may include fines and/or incarceration and/or forfeiture of funds under applicable state law.

SIGNATURE	
X _____	Date: _____

TDA Austin headquarters must receive the original application form no later than 5:00 p.m. CST September 2, 2011. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST

In order to be eligible for funding, the following item **must** be included with the signed application, **please check if attached:**

- Copy of Applicant’s Texas Driver’s License or other form of identification (U.S.Passport, State of Texas I.D., or birth certificate)

The following items may be attached to the application, please **check if attached:**

- Letter(s) of recommendation or mentor letter(s) confirming the relationship (**only for applicants with 5 or less years of experience**)
- Business plan for proposed project (Please limit to no more than 2 pages)
- Any contract or letter of intent relied upon in connection with your proposed project
- IRS form Schedule F to verify farm income from most recent tax return
- Lender commitment letter if a loan is used to fund your proposed project

THIS APPLICATION AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT. PLEASE IDENTIFY ON YOUR APPLICATION OR ATTACHMENTS ALL INFORMATION YOU CONTEND IS PROPRIETARY, CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUEST AND BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT THE STATE OF TEXAS COLLECTS ABOUT YOU. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW THE INFORMATION UPON REQUEST. YOU ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK THE STATE AGENCY TO CORRECT ANY INFORMATION THAT IS DETERMINED TO BE INCORRECT. (REFERENCE: GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTIONS 552.021, 552.023, AND 559.004.)

Return application and supporting documentation to Texas Department of Agriculture. All eligible applications must be received by TDA no later than 5:00 p.m. CST September 2, 2011.

Physical address: Texas Department of Agriculture
Rural Economic Division
Young Farmer Grant Program
1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701

Mailing: Texas Department of Agriculture
Rural Economic Division
Young Farmer Grant Program
P.O. Box 12847
Austin, TX 78711

Please review your application to make sure all blanks are addressed before mailing.

Additional information is available by contacting:

Michael West
512-463-4320

Allen Regehr
512-463-9932

Michael.West@TexasAgriculture.gov

Allen.Regehr@TexasAgriculture.gov