

# America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Media Kit



**America's Farmers Grow Rural Education, sponsored by Bayer Fund, partners with farmers across the U.S. to nominate rural schools for a chance to compete for STEM grants focused on enhancing STEM education and curriculum in our schools.**

## Purpose of America's Farmers Grow Rural Education

America's Farmers Grow Rural Education was introduced in 2011 to partner with farmers to support their local school districts. The program offers farmers the opportunity to nominate rural public school districts to compete for merit-based STEM grants of either \$10,000 or \$25,000.

## How does the program work?

Farmers nominate their local public school district from January 1 – April 1. After a school district receives its first nomination, Bayer Fund will notify them and encourage them to develop a project and submit an application that enhances math and/or science education in their district. School districts are responsible for submitting their grant application by April 15.

After the application period closes, a panel of math and science teachers from ineligible counties reviews each application and selects the finalists. Then a Farmer Advisory Council, composed of farmers from across the U.S., reviews and selects the winning grant applications from the pool of finalists. Grant applications will be judged based on the merit of the application, need and community support. Winners are announced in early August.

## Program Quick Facts

- America's Farmers Grow Rural Education is sponsored by Bayer Fund.
- Since 2011, more than \$18 million has been awarded to over 900 rural school districts to enhance STEM education.

## Types of Projects Often Funded by Grow Rural Education Grants

- New or upgraded technology for hands-on learning
- Greenhouses and outdoor learning environments
- Teacher and curriculum development
- Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) related projects

## Official Rules

<https://www.americasfarmers.com/grow-rural-education/program-rules/>.

## Broadcast Materials

For press release, interviews, or PSAs contact Eric White of Weber Shandwick at:

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## Winner Testimonials



### **Brownstown CUSD, Illinois**

#### **\$10,000 Grow Rural Education Grant Winner**

#### **Project Title: Equipment and materials to enhance STEM, NGSS and Common Core curriculum**

"We were delighted to learn of our selection for the Grow Rural Education grant. Teachers are excited about the new math and science tools, as well as new

equipment and technology the kids will have to help them learn. It's a great thing to have the support of our local farmers and the community as a whole."

- Mike Shackelford, Brownstown junior-senior high principal and K-12 director of instruction.

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### **Knights Ferry, California**

#### **\$25,000 Grow Rural Education Grant Winner**

#### **Project Title: Rural Robotics**

"We are honored to be a recipient of this year's Grow Rural Education Program grants. With this grant, we are able to bring robotics, programming, and STEM activities to all our students on a regular basis. It is gratifying for our small, rural school to be able to offer high level STEM instruction using robotics to children who may not otherwise have had that opportunity." - Janey Skulina, Superintendent and Principal.



### **Calloway County Schools , Kentucky**

#### **\$25,000 Grow Rural Education Grant Winner**

#### **Project Title: Collaborative Learning House**

"The greenhouse projects play a critical role in expanding the agriculture and science opportunities for our students at our high school. We are so thankful to the Grow Rural Education program for supporting education and assisting us in providing

top quality opportunities for our students."

- Randy McCallon, principal of Calloway County High School.

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## More about America's Farmers

Grow Communities is part of a larger initiative called America's Farmers. The America's Farmers campaign highlights the importance of modern U.S. agriculture through communications and community outreach programs that partner with farmers to impact rural America. To learn more, visit America's Farmers at [www.AmericasFarmers.com](http://www.AmericasFarmers.com).

The outreach programs include:



**America's Farmers Grow Communities** gives farmers the opportunity to win \$2,500 for direct to a nonprofit organization in their local community to help feed the hungry, purchase lifesaving equipment, support ag youth programs, buy classroom resources and more.



**America's Farmers Grow Rural Education** works with farmers to nominate rural public school districts to compete for STEM grants. These grants support math and science education by funding projects like technology upgrades, greenhouses and laboratory equipment.



**America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders** encourages rural youth to remain in agriculture and provides \$1,500 scholarships to support their education in ag-related fields of study. The scholarships are administered by the National FFA Organization. FFA membership is not required.

**Since 2010, through these programs, Bayer Fund has awarded more than \$53 million to farm communities across the country.**

## About Bayer Fund

Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects.

[www.AmericasFarmers.com](http://www.AmericasFarmers.com)