

TEXAS FARM BUREAU LEARNING FROM THE GROUND UP GARDEN GRANT DETAILS & GUIDELINES

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Texas Farm Bureau and Ag in the Classroom's Learning from the Ground Up Garden Grant Program was created to support schools that strive to help students understand the source of their food, fiber, and fuel and to help Texas school children gain a greater knowledge and appreciation of agriculture. The Learning from the Ground Up Garden Grant Program seeks to connect small-scale gardening to farming operations, so students better understand food production.

Qualifying projects will provide students with hands-on, experiential learning about agriculture through the funding of a new garden project or improvements to an existing garden or greenhouse. Aquaponic and hydroponic systems are eligible if they are used to teach food production. We encourage teachers to think outside the box and adapt programs to fit school circumstances, which might include container gardens, etc. Food production and learning truly happens here, there, and everywhere!

This program awards \$500 grants with the possibility of matching funds from a County Farm Bureau. This is determined by the county once an application has been selected through the grant program.

A limited number of grants will be awarded.

APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Any certified, active PK-12 teacher (all subject areas) teaching in a public school or PK-12 teacher (all subject areas) teaching in an accredited non-public elementary and secondary educational institution.
- For agricultural science teachers applying for the grant, the project must incorporate elementary, junior high, or other non-ag high school students into the project in some capacity as to increase agricultural literacy outside of general agricultural courses. The applications submitted **MUST** clearly identify the plan to how the project will incorporate elementary, junior high, or other non-ag high school students.
- PTAs and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents directly connected to a class in a public school district or accredited non-public elementary and secondary educational institution may apply when the project will directly engage students.
- Other organizations are not eligible to apply.

PROJECT AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Agricultural concepts must be used. Projects must directly engage students in hands-on learning that expands knowledge of food production and agricultural practices.
- Students must be directly engaged in the educational component.
- For agricultural science teachers applying for the grant, the project must incorporate elementary, junior high, or other non-ag high school students into the project in some capacity as to increase agricultural literacy outside of general agricultural courses. The applications submitted **MUST** clearly identify the plan to how the project will incorporate elementary, junior high, or other non-ag high school students.
- High school teachers teaching courses other than agricultural science courses are eligible to apply.
- Applications must include a timeline of the project and list all community partners.
- A detailed budget with estimated expenses must be included in the application.
- Grant checks will be made payable to the school, not to an individual or organization.
- Only one grant application per school may be submitted per grant cycle (an elementary school and a middle school from the same district can each submit an application, but two applications from the same elementary school cannot).
- Project must be science-based.

FUND DISBURSEMENT AND PROJECT REPORTING

Grant recipients will be given half of the awarded funds upon notification of selection in the fall. Remaining funds will be awarded early in the Spring 2025 semester after a progress report is received.

Grant recipients will be required to share an update in January 2025 (TFB will email asking for this update) and complete a final report electronically (provided by TFB) by June 1, 2025. TFB strongly encourages grant recipients to submit photos in electronic form, as well as appropriate photo releases.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024.

The application can only be completed by a teacher, other school official, or PTA or AgriLife Extension agent (as specified in the eligibility section of this document) representative.

The registration link is available at texasfarmbureau.org/aitc.

To submit an application, follow the below steps:

1. Click on the link above.
2. Create an account in Review.
To do so, you will be prompted to provide your name and email address.
3. Once on the Review page, click "Create an Account" found on the right-hand side of the screen.
From there, thoroughly read the instructions and eligibility requirements provided.
4. After creating an account, fill in the information required to complete the application.

For questions, please contact Educational Outreach at 254.751.2569 or edoutreach@txfb.org.