NEWS RELEASE

AgWest Farm Credit Supports New Producers with $15,000 Grant Program

Spokane, Washington (March 8, 2024) – AgWest Farm Credit, a cooperative lending association dedicated to supporting agriculture, has launched the application window for the New Producer Grant program, designed to help motivated producers get started in agriculture. The grant provides $15,000 in start-up funds to successful applicants to support their agricultural ventures.

Mark Littlefield, President and CEO of AgWest, said, "We're continually inspired by the producers we get to know through the New Producer Grant program. Helping new producers start or grow their operations is allowing us to invest in the future of agriculture and build relationships with people we haven't previously been able to serve. This program is an important component of our commitment to meet the credit needs of farmers and ranchers and the rural communities we serve."

Program details:

Benefits

- One-time grant of $15,000
- Educational support and mentoring

Eligibility criteria:

- Be a full or part-time agriculturalist with two years or less of operational experience or have plans to start an operation within two years of the grant application date.
- Have an operation located within AgWest Farm Credit's territory.
- Not be a current AgWest lending customer.
- Must be 18 years of age and either a U.S. citizen or a foreign national lawfully admitted for permanent residency or pursuant to certain visas.

Application requirements:

- Prepare a business plan, cash flow budget, application and a one-page essay describing how the grant will help achieve operational goals.
- View three recorded webinars covering Financial Statement Basics at AgWestFC.com
- English and Spanish resources are available to assist with completing the application components.

Application deadline: May 31, 2024

Application link: Submit applications online at AgWestFC.com/new-producer-grant

For questions about the program, contact AgVision@AgWestFC.com.

About AgWest Farm Credit

AgWest is a financial cooperative with approximately $32 billion in total assets that provides financing and related services to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, commercial fishermen, timber producers, rural homeowners and crop insurance customers primarily in seven states in the West. AgWest is part of the 108-year-old Farm Credit System – the leading provider of credit to American agriculture. AgWest serves customers in 59 locations throughout the West. For more information, visit AgWestFC.com.

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