

Agricultural Excellence Scholarship Program

2026



Western Idaho Fair awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are pursuing a **career in the agricultural industry**. Western Idaho Fair looks forward to helping with **educational opportunities** for the agricultural youth we serve.

We are pleased to continue our agricultural scholarship for its 22nd year. At least two new \$2,000 scholarships will be available to 4-H and/or FFA members who participate in Western Idaho Fair programs.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on their 4-H or FFA membership, participation in the Western Idaho Fair, career vision, fair and community involvement, high school GPA, and SAT/ACT scores.

Students who are selected to receive a scholarship may reapply for their 2nd, 3rd and 4th year of college – potentially **receiving a total of \$8,000** in scholarships!

To date, **over \$204,000 has been awarded** to students.

Sponsors have generously donated funds to help finance the Agricultural Scholarship Program: Albertsons, Butler Amusements, Numerous Fair Sponsors, and Western Idaho Fair.

Western Idaho Fair is a totally self-supporting entity of Ada County. No taxpayer dollars are used for any fairground improvements, year-around building, grounds, maintenance or salaries.

2026-2027 AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Application Deadlines:

New Applicant: March 30, 2026

Renewal Applicant: March 30, 2026

Apply and find detailed instructions at idahofair.com or call the Fair office at 208-287-5651.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Expo Idaho (W.I.F.)
5610 Glenwood Boise, Idaho 83714
208-287-5651
ksarich@expoidaho.com
Expoidaho.com or IdahoFair.com



INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications may be submitted online and printed from our website: idahofair.com/ag-scholarship-program. Additionally; applications are furnished to County Extension Offices, FFA chapters, 4-H and FFA offices and local high school counselor offices. Applications are also available at Western Idaho Fair's Administration office.

Applications should be completed in full and must be typed or printed neatly in black or blue ink. All applications can be returned via:

- **Our website:**
idahofair.com/ag-scholarship-program
- **Email all application documents to:**
ksarich@expoidaho.com
- **Hand delivered or mailed directly to:**
Expo Idaho (W.I.F.)
Attn: Agricultural Scholarship
5610 Glenwood
Boise, Idaho 83714

If hand delivered or mailed directly, please staple your application; do NOT place it in a folder, binder or a protective sheet cover.

Expo Idaho (W.I.F.) must receive new applications, or they must be postmarked, no later than the deadline of March 30, 2026.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for this scholarship, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Participation in the 2024 or 2025 Western Idaho Fair
- ✓ 2025 or 2026 membership in either 4-H or FFA
- ✓ Enrollment in an Idaho university, college, or technical school
- ✓ Major in an ag-related field
- ✓ Graduating high school senior
- ✓ Academic standing requirements
- ✓ College entrance examination

Immediate family and/or members of the Fair Staff, Fair Board, Ada County Commissioners and Selection Committee are not eligible to participate.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

- No application will be accepted without test scores. The applicant must have taken either the SAT or ACT College entrance examination prior to submission of the application and furnish proof of a minimum college/university entrance score.
- Proof of the score may be a part of the official transcript or a copy of the official test results and should be included with the application. This information should reflect the date the test was taken.
- The highest test score will be used for evaluation; and scores from different test dates will not be combined.

ACADEMIC STANDING

- The applicant must be a graduating High School senior who maintained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average and is ranked in the top 50th percentile of their graduating class.
- Applicant's scholastic average is to be reported on the application and verified on the submitted transcript.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE/ ENROLLMENT

- The applicant must enroll in an Idaho accredited post-secondary institution majoring in an ag-related program. The applicant must indicate the school, choice of major and career planned.
- No application will be considered from a student who has not been accepted by a post-secondary Idaho institution.

4-H OR FFA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

- The applicant must have been a member in good standing of either the Idaho 4-H Association or FFA Association during the last fair.
- 2025 or 2026 membership must be verified either by their 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor.

ACTIVITIES, PARTICIPATION, HONORS & AWARDS

Leadership potential and character of the applicant should be demonstrated through the applicant's responses to the categories of the application detailing school, extracurricular, community activities, and achievements.

NARRATIVE ESSAY

In a separate document, attach your narrative essay to your application. The essay should be word processed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman and should be no more than 500 words.

Complete your essay by answering the following questions:

- a. How was participation in 4-H and/or FFA important to you?
Share your experiences of raising, preparing, and exhibiting at the Western Idaho Fair (plant and animal exhibits)
- or Share your experiences of raising, preparing and exhibiting at the Western Idaho Fair (FCS and art exhibits)
- c. What are your future goals and aspirations now that you are graduating high school?

REFERENCES

Each applicant may submit a maximum of three (3) letters of personal reference from persons who are well acquainted with the applicant.

References may either be typed or handwritten and should include the name, address and daytime phone number of the person making the recommendation, as well as an indication of the person's relationship to the applicant (teacher, minister, employer, relative, etc.). Please include these letters with the application. No letter should exceed two pages in length.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

For the purposes of evaluation of applicants, Expo Idaho Advisory Board has appointed a Scholarship Selection Committee to review all properly completed applications. The Scholarship Selection Committee will notify each scholarship recipient after final approval.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at Expo Idaho (W.I.F.)'s Junior Market Livestock Sale or during an Advisory Board Meeting.

PAYMENT OF STIPEND

- It is the responsibility of the scholarship recipient to notify Expo Idaho (W.I.F.) with the following information each semester:
 - First and last name
 - Address of the Financial Aid Office of the Idaho College or University
 - Class Schedule
 - Student ID number
- Recipients must submit all required documentation each semester at least two weeks prior to the institution's financial aid deadline. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a warning and forfeiture of the scholarship payment for that semester.
- A second occurrence of missing required documentation will result in permanent revocation of the scholarship, and the recipient will not be eligible to reapply. Recipients are responsible for ensuring all materials are submitted on time to maintain their scholarship.
- Payment of the scholarship will be made directly to the Financial Aid Office at the rate of \$1,000.00 for the first semester enrolled and \$1,000.00 when the applicant enrolls for the second semester.
- Recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student at an Idaho post-secondary institution and pursuing a degree in an undergraduate ag-related field of study or completing an ag-related technical program.
- Scholarship funds are available to a recipient for a maximum of eight (8) undergraduate semesters if the recipient reapplies each year and meets all enrollment and academic requirements.
- If the recipient completes their undergraduate degree in less than eight (8) semesters and desires to pursue a graduate degree in an ag-related field of study, the recipient must notify the Western Idaho Fair Scholarship Selection Committee of this intention. The committee may authorize payment of the scholarship for a maximum of two (2) more semesters if the total number of payments received does not exceed the equivalent of the eight (8) semester payments. All academic and enrollment requirements would still apply.

DEFERMENT OF PAYMENTS

- Recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student at a post-secondary institution within six (6) months of receiving an Agricultural Excellence Scholarship from the Western Idaho Fair.
- If the recipient is unable to utilize the scholarship for the academic school year, but still wishes to receive the scholarship funds, a formal written request for deferment must be submitted to the Western Idaho Fair Scholarship Selection Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to semester start date for consideration. The following must be included in the request:
 - Updated contact information
 - Detailed reason for the deferment
 - Requested length of time for the deferment
- Listed below are examples of when a deferment may be applicable:
 - Unique educational opportunity
 - Religious obligation or opportunity
 - Family or personal obligations
 - Financial constraints
- If the primary reason for deferment not allow the recipient to attend a secondary institution for a period, and the deferment is approved, the scholarship will be held and awarded once the recipient fulfills the enrollment requirements.
- Due to special circumstances, a scholarship may be deferred for six (6) to twenty-four (24) months after being awarded.
- Recipients may only request one deferment over the life of their scholarship.