

**Missouri Department of Agriculture
Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA)**

**MISSOURI DAIRY SCHOLARS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Guidelines and Procedures

Legal Authorization: Chapter 261.285 RSMo (2015) Missouri Dairy Revitalization Act of 2015

A. DESCRIPTION and PURPOSE

To encourage more young people to pursue careers in agriculture in Missouri there is hereby established the Missouri Dairy Scholars Program. The program shall, upon appropriation, provide scholarships, subject to the eligibility criteria listed, for eligible students in an agriculture-related degree program who make a commitment to work in the agriculture industry in Missouri as a condition of receiving such scholarship. Subject to appropriations, each year the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA), shall make scholarships available to eligible students, in the amount of \$5,000 dollars each to assist with the cost of the eligible students' tuition and fees at a two-year or four-year college or university in Missouri. **These scholarships shall be paid out of the Missouri Dairy Industry Revitalization Fund, which also funds the Dairy Producer Margin Insurance Premium Assistance Program.**

B. ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATIONS

Eligible Student: is an individual who:

1. Is a United States citizen and a Missouri resident who has graduated from a Missouri high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half (2.5) on a four-point (4.0) scale or equivalent;
2. Is pursuing, or has attained, an agriculture-related degree approved by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, MASBDA and offered by a two-year or four-year college or university in Missouri;
3. Signs an agreement with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority, in which the recipient agrees to work in the agriculture industry in Missouri for at least two years for every one year the recipient receives the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship;
4. Maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half (2.5) on a four-point (4.0) scale or equivalent while enrolled in the college or university program; and
5. Works on a dairy farm, or has a dairy-related internship, for at least three months (minimum of 400 hours) of each year the recipient receives the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship.
6. The applicant must be enrolled in a two-year or four-year Missouri college or university as a full time student (minimum of twelve credit hours) each semester.

Except that, in any year in which there not enough United States citizens and Missouri residents who shall be awarded scholarships, applicants who are legal United States residents who meet all other eligibility requirements shall be eligible for the remaining scholarships.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. “Agriculture-Related Degree”– Programs offered by a two-year or four-year college or university in Missouri that include, but may not be limited to, the following program areas:

- Agricultural Business/Economics
- Agricultural Education
- Agricultural Equipment/Power/Machinery
- Agricultural Communications/Journalism
- Agricultural Production
- Animal Health
- Animal Science
- Biotechnology
- Farm Management
- Food Science/Nutrition
- Horticulture/Plant Science
- Landscape/Nursery/Turf Management
- Soils

2. “Dairy-Related Internship” – a (3) three month, or a minimum of 400 hours, paid or unpaid work experience on a dairy farm, with a dairy cooperative, dairy manufacturing plant, dairy equipment, feed or input provider, an agribusiness, commodity organization, or allied dairy service provider.

3. “Missouri Agriculture Industry” - farms and ranches involved in the production of food products; the agriculture supply and service businesses that support farmers and ranchers; and the cooperatives, processors and manufacturers that provide value added services and help to transform the farmer’s agricultural production into higher value products.

4. “Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority”- (MASBDA)

D. EVALUATION AND FUNDING CRITERIA

Scholarships will be selected on a competitive basis. Applications will be scored by a panel of no less than 3 judges familiar with Missouri’s agricultural and dairy industries.

Each application will be evaluated and rated within a framework of 100 maximum points using the following criteria:

- Agriculture-Related Degree – 20 points
- Dairy-Related Work Experience or Internship – 25 points
- Career Plans – 25 points
- Year in School – 10 points
- Resume and letters of recommendation highlighting experiences, talents, and expertise – 10 points
- Academic Achievement- 10 points

An application must score a minimum average of 60 points to be considered for scholarship award. In the event the Missouri Dairy Scholars Program is not fully funded in any one year, resulting in a limited number of available scholarships, applications will be awarded beginning with the highest score and proceeding until funds are exhausted.

E. APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Dairy Scholars Program Application Submission:** Eligible students must submit a complete application by the deadline set by MASBDA. Applications may be mailed, delivered, or e-mailed.
2. **Application:** Eligible students must submit the following:
 - a. Completed Scholarship application on form provided by MASBDA
 - b. Copy of one of the following: Missouri driver’s license, U.S. birth certificate, valid U.S. passport, Certificate of Citizenship, Certificate of Naturalization, or Certificate of Birth Abroad certifying U.S. citizenship.
 - c. Copy of final high school transcript
 - d. Letter of acceptance or enrollment confirmation from a Missouri two-year or four-year college or university confirming enrollment in an agriculture-related degree program.
 - e. Copy of current (In Progress) college transcript
 - f. Two letters of reference
 - g. Completed Employer Certification or Commitment for dairy-related work or internship on a form provided by MASBDA

F. RESTRICTIONS

1. A student is eligible for only one scholarship per fiscal year (July 1-June 30).
2. **Students who have not complied with the conditions of previous scholarships will not be considered for additional scholarships.**

G. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. An official college/university transcript must be submitted to MASBDA within 30 days of the end of the 2017-2018 school year to verify a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.
2. Student must notify MASBDA within 30 days of any changes in their status as a student or an employee.
3. Student must notify MASBDA within 30 days of graduation and submit a final transcript.
4. Within 6 (six) months after graduation, the student will be required to provide MASBDA with an Employer Placement Certification Form (provided by MASBDA) certifying employment in the agriculture industry in Missouri.

H. ACCOUNTABILITY

If a violation or a breach of the terms of the guidelines occurs with any of the provisions of the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship program, the Missouri Department of Agriculture and MASBDA may immediately recall or seek reimbursement for all sums paid to the scholarship recipient under the Dairy Scholarship Agreement with interest from the time the scholarship monies were awarded at an annual percentage rate determined by MASBDA until the balance of the scholarship award is paid in full.

If a violation or a breach of the terms of the guidelines occurs with any of the provisions of the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship program, the Missouri Department of Agriculture and MASBDA may institute any appropriate remedial action to recover any amount owed.

I. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

To be considered for the 2017-2018 school year, applications must be received no later than

5:00 p.m., Friday, February 16, 2018:

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Mail to: Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority
Missouri Dairy Scholars Program
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630
Telephone: (573) 751-2129
Fax: (573) 522-2416
masbda@mda.mo.gov
agriculture.mo.gov