

Tools of the Trade Matching Funds Grant

Overview: ***The Tools of the Trade*** matching funds grant is a financial incentive program which assists successful applicants with opportunities relating to skill and leadership development in the vocational trades and related occupational clusters.

Financial Award: Successful applicants who are members of the Yates County Farm Bureau are eligible to receive a maximum amount up to \$650.00 per calendar year. Successful applicants who are not members of the Yates County Farm Bureau are eligible to receive a maximum amount up to \$500.00 per calendar year. Applicants can apply multiple years. This is a matching-funds grant program, and reimbursement for expenses incurred by the applicant must be pre-approved. All financial awards will only be considered once the proper receipt and invoices are presented for consideration.

Eligibility:

- 1) Age range is 18 – 35 years old.
- 2) Applicant needs to be a Yates County resident.

Award Areas for Consideration

- a) **Education and Training** – includes fees relating to the acquisition of educational and training needed for successful entrance or advancement within a chosen occupational cluster. Examples could include reimbursement for training tuition, texts and educational resources.
- b) **Tools for the Trades** – includes specialty tools and technology which are required for successful entrance or advancement within a chosen occupational cluster. Examples could include such items as personal safety items (respirators, footwear, helmets), tool belts, tool storage, and tools which are deemed necessary to successful employment in the chosen occupation.
- c) **Licenses and Certifications** – includes licenses or certifications which are required for successful entrance or advancement in the chosen career cluster. Examples could include licensees to drive commercial equipment, auctioneering and public sales, real estate sales and brokerage, public employment, source- verification certifications, production classification certifications such as New York Grown and Certified, or Organic, etc.)
- d) **Leadership Development** – includes registration and travel expenses to leadership development activities such as State, Regional, or National events. Examples include: State and National Young Farmer/Young Rancher conferences, Trade-specific conventions, trade shows, or motivational speakers and seminars.
- e) **Improving Efficiency through Technology** – this category is designed for the agricultural entrepreneur who is seeking to improve efficiency through the integration of technology. Examples could include GPS and precision agriculture, laboratory equipment, analytic testing equipment, and computer-aided monitors which can enhance efficiency through reduced inputs.

Procedures and Practices: The Yates County Farm Bureau Board of Directors shall oversee ***The Tools of the Trade*** matching funds grant project and will serve as the financial monitor. The chairperson of the Young Farmer/Young Rancher Committee over-see the implementation of this program. The presiding officer of the Yates County Farm Bureau shall appoint a minimum of two members to serve on the application and evaluation sub-committee.

Applicants can submit the ***Tools of the Trade Matching Funds Grant Application*** to the YF/YR Committee chair at any time during the calendar year. Once the application is received, the YF/YR Committee Chair shall review the application and will contact the applicant for an interview. Interviews can be conducted virtually or in person. The committee shall then meet to determine the amount (if any) of funds which the applicant will be eligible for.

Upon completion of the training, certification, or purchase, the applicant shall submit the necessary proof of completion and/or expense. The committee is encouraged to set up a follow-up interview with the applicant at this point, and determine if the applicant has fulfilled the requirements for reimbursement.