

Revamped America's Farmers Grow Communities Program Makes it Easier for Farmers to Support Organizations that Keep Communities Thriving

Now through Nov. 1, eligible farmers can enroll in the Bayer Fund's America's Farmers Grow Communities program for the chance to direct a donation to a local eligible nonprofit, school or ag program.

In 2022, Bayer Fund will double the individual donations to \$5,000, up from \$2,500 in previous years.

Since 2010, the America's Farmers programs have awarded \$60 million to thousands of nonprofits, schools and ag students across rural America.

To enroll for a chance to direct a donation, farmers can visit www.AmericasFarmers.com or call 1-877-267-3332 toll-free.

St. Louis, Missouri Bayer Fund announced the kickoff of the 2022 America's Farmers Grow Communities program, which has been revamped to make it even easier for farmers across the country to find and fund the organizations and institutions that keep their communities thriving. From August 2 to November 1, eligible farmers can enroll for the chance to direct a donation to a local eligible nonprofit organization, school STEM or youth agriculture program. For 2022, Bayer Fund will double the individual donations to \$5,000, up from \$2,500 in previous years.

America's Farmers initiatives have awarded more than \$60 million to thousands of schools and nonprofit organizations. Since the creation of Grow Communities in 2010, farmers have played a key role in directing funds to programs and organizations that contribute to their communities' health and vibrancy, such as food banks, schools and agriculture programs.

In 2021, an Illinois farmer directed a Grow Communities donation to Greenfield High School in Greenfield, Illinois. The school used the donation to purchase an educational farm where students learn firsthand how to care for animals and

USDA Accepting Applications to Help Cover Costs for Organic Certification

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17, 2021 – Organic producers and handlers can now apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification. Applications for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) are due Nov. 1, 2021.

"USDA is here to help all producers, including those who grow our nation's organic food and fiber. Many farmers have told us that cost was a barrier to their ability to get an organic certification," said Zach Ducheneaux, administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "By assisting with the costs, this program can help organic farmers get their certification along with the benefits that come with it."

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying

manage a business.

"We can't thank our local farmers and the Grow Communities program enough for their donation and continued support," said Beth Burrow, Greenfield High School's ag instructor. "As educators we're always looking for ways to engage our students with hands-on experiences, and that's what we've been able to do thanks to Grow Communities."

Farmers are eligible to enroll in Grow Communities if they are 21 years of age or older and are actively engaged in farming at least 250 acres of any crop.

"In addition to increasing the individual donation amounts in 2022, we're excited to evolve Grow Communities to make it easier for farmers to take part," said Al Mitchell, Bayer Fund President. "Over the years we've heard from countless farmers and Grow Communities recipients about the ways the donations have made a positive impact across rural America. For this reason, Bayer Fund is excited to continue the Grow Communities tradition."

To enroll or learn more about Grow Communities, including program eligibility and rules, farmers can visit www.AmericasFarmers.com or call 1-877-267-3332 toll-free. Winners will be announced January 2022.

About America's Farmers America's Farmers, sponsored by Bayer Fund, is focused on strengthening rural America through community outreach programs that partner with farmers to make an impact in communities where farmers live and work. The programs have given more than \$60 million to rural America since 2010.

About Bayer Fund Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects.

agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year.

Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021 including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

For 2021, OCCSP will reimburse 50% of a certified operation's allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500 for each of the following categories (or "scopes"):

- crops
- wild crops
- livestock
- processing/handling
- State organic program fees.

Organic farmers and ranchers may apply through an FSA county office or a participating state agency.

This funding will be complemented by an additional \$20 million for organic and transitioning producers through the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. More information on that funding will be available in the coming weeks.

Wheat Scoop:

Kansas Wheat Rx to provide farmers with latest research for high-yielding and high-quality wheat

Kansas Wheat and K-State Research and Extension have announced Wheat Rx, a new program to disseminate to Kansas wheat farmers the latest research recommendations for producing high-yielding and high-quality wheat. Wheat Rx is a series of Extension publications and other educational outreach materials designed to address key management areas of hard winter wheat. These publications contain recent data based on novel research funded in part by wheat farmers through the Kansas Wheat Commission's two-cent wheat assessment.

"Kansas Wheat Rx is a combination of suggested management practices for economical and sustainable production of high-quality and high-yielding wheat in Kansas," said Aaron Harries, vice president of research and operations for Kansas Wheat. "Over the past five years, the Kansas Wheat Commission has made it a priority to focus research investments on elevating the overall quality of the Kansas wheat crop. While the extreme weather in Kansas certainly has a major effect on the quality of each wheat crop, there are certain practices and tools that farmers can use to improve quality."

K-State Research and Extension wheat and forages production specialist Romulo Lollato is coordinating the Wheat Rx program through K-State. Lollato has also been the lead researcher on several projects that past few years that have focused on intensive management practices for wheat. Results from this research will be part of the Wheat Rx series. Lollato has also collected data from hundreds of commercial wheat fields directly from farmers across Kansas to evaluate the management practices common to top-tier wheat producers.

"In the last five years, we have learned a lot about the yield potential of wheat in Kansas as well as how to manage the crop to reach its economical optimum," said Romulo Lollato. "In several projects, we also evaluated how management and variety selection impact the end use properties of wheat. In this series of Extension materials, we will compile results from the latest research, both on small plots and at the commercial field level, to educate our growers on how to maximize their profitability through management of yield and quality of their wheat crop."

The first in the series of Wheat Rx publications, "Wheat Variety Selection," can be found on the Kansas Wheat website at www.kswheat.com/wheatrx. Each publication will be two to four pages in length and will focus on a specific wheat production topic. More publications in the series will be released by K-State on an on-going basis, including updates to existing publications as new research data becomes available. Accompanying videos will also be produced for several of the topics.

"Wheat varieties with preferred quality genetic potential, certified seed, advanced agronomics and soil health are all components of a prescription to raise the highest-quality winter wheat in the world," said Harries. "The global marketplace for wheat has become much more competitive in the last decade. Kansas farmers must continue their track record of innovation and technology adoption to lead the world as the Wheat State."



Construction had begun on Monday morning south of the Eagle store in Tribune.

K-27 resurfacing begins in Greeley County

Crews began a resurfacing project on K-27 in Greeley County on Monday, Aug. 23, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation. The project which is almost 30 miles in length includes K-27 in Greeley County from the Hamilton County line to the

Wallace County line.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane with a pilot car during the project. Motorists should expect delays of up to 15 minutes.

Venture Corporation of Great Bend is the contractor on this \$4.4 million project, which is expected to be

completed in November, weather permitting.

For more information on this project, contact Larry Meyer, Construction Manager at (620) 384-7821, or Lisa Knoll, KDOT District 6 Public Affairs Manager, at (620) 765-7080.

Fall gardens

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Salad anyone?

The time is right to plant such garden favorites as lettuce, radishes, spinach, turnips, mustard and other greens, says Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham.

Those crops are ideal for planting from mid-August to early September for a fall harvest. "Plant slightly deeper than you did in spring," Upham said. "This will keep the seed slightly cooler, though still warm, and the soil should retain moisture longer."

Upham noted that gardeners should water these crops frequently in the fall, at least until seeds begin to emerge: "That should be pretty quickly with the warmer soils we get in Kansas," he said.



We grow reliable varieties with WSMV resistance

<p>KS Hamilton *NEW* KS Dallas Joe *Hard White</p> <p>WHEAT ALLIANCE www.KSWheatAlliance.com</p>	<p>Guardian Whistler Langin</p> <p>Plains Gold <small>SEEDS YOU CAN TRUST</small></p> <p>www.PlainsGold.com</p>
---	---

- Good performance, suited to the High Plains
- Top Quality Seed, Certified Scales
- Friendly Customer Service

2400 NE CR 10 Syracuse, KS 67878
Call Jess @ 620-384-4240 | jlffarms@pld.com



READY ROOFER®

would like to introduce our
Local Certified Contractors —



The Dustyn and Dorsey Smith Family

A **Ready Roofer Certified Contractor** is a trusted member of the community in which they live and work. Homeowners prefer to work with their local contractor when home repairs are needed. For this reason, Ready Roofer created the Certified Contractor program which partners with local contractors who have the expertise and reputation that match our expectations to provide you with a local roofing option.

Contact:
Dustyn & Dorsey — 620-376-8827
Ready Roofer Phone — 1-800-208-3345
Email — readyroofer@readyroofer.com