

Agricultural Education FY23 Budget Book

*Legislative Reference – 105 ILCS 5/2-3.80
Funding Source – State*

Appropriation History

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23 Proposed
Appropriation	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$7,050,000
Change from Prior Year	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,050,000
	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.00%

Board Goals

The Agricultural Education program aligns with the following ISBE Goals:

- **Student Learning:** Every child will make significant academic gains each year, increasing their knowledge, skills, and opportunities so they graduate equipped to pursue a successful future, with the state paying special attention to addressing historic inequities.
- **Learning Conditions:** All districts and schools will receive the resources necessary to create safe, healthy, and welcoming learning environments, and will be equipped to meet the unique academic and social and emotion needs of each and every student.
- **Elevating Educators:** Illinois' diverse student populations will have educators who are prepared through multiple pathways and are supported in and celebrated for their efforts to provide each and every child an education that meets their needs.

Program Mission

The mission of Agricultural Education is to increase the utilization of research-informed, standards-based instructional practices and curricula to improve student achievement across fundamental and experiential learning in agricultural-related career and technical areas while also supporting agricultural literacy for all learners. The purpose of Agricultural Education funds is to assist school districts, colleges, and universities in developing comprehensive programs in agricultural education and improve agricultural career preparation.

Executive Summary

Agriculture Education funding supports all aspects of the statewide program. Areas addressed by funding are described below by common mission areas.

- Dollars from the *Incentive Grants for Programs in Grades 5-12* formula grant are distributed to each agricultural education program in Illinois to strengthen and supplement agricultural education programming for middle- and high-school grades.
- *Incentive Grants for Agriculture Teacher Preparation Programs, the Agriculture Education Preservice Internship Program, and Growing Agricultural Science Teachers (GAST)* support postsecondary agriculture programs for the recruitment and development of agriculture teachers in addition to program improvement activities.
- *The Agriculture Education Teacher Three Circle Grant* program partners with districts to agriculture teacher service costs incurred outside of the regular teaching responsibilities for the improvement of the agricultural education program. Activities include supervising work-based learning experiences, skill and leadership development activities through FFA, development of agricultural education curricula and any agricultural education specific professional learning opportunities.
- The *Facilitating Coordination of Agricultural Education (FCAE)* fund provides financial support for program coordination and field support services statewide for Agricultural Education. Monies allocated for FCAE support teacher program services, professional learning for teachers, curriculum and instructional resources, and administrative costs.

The Agricultural Education program supports the development of comprehensive programs in agricultural literacy for pre-K through adult learners, improves agricultural career preparation, and increases the application of classroom and industry skills in high school through postsecondary education opportunities.

Reimbursement/Distribution Method

Agricultural Education funds are proposed to be distributed in fiscal year 2023 to districts/Local Education Agencies according to the following guidelines:

- Approximately 45% of Agricultural Education funds are allocated to the *Agriculture Education Teacher Three Circle Grant*. Funds will support the personnel service costs of teachers in agricultural education programs for activities outside of the regularly scheduled teaching responsibilities of the teacher(s). Proposed funding level is \$3,200,000 in fiscal year 2023. Local allocations are calculated based on the participating teachers' salary and benefits information.
- Approximately 20% of Agricultural Education funds are allocated to the *Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE)* grant programs. Funds will support the coordination of three unique grant initiatives. The *Local Program Support (LPS)* grant will provide the current field staff support for teachers and administrators in agricultural education along with statewide professional development and management of statewide student services. The *Work-based Learning (WBL)* grant will provide statewide record keeping services for student and teachers managing work-placement and other student experiences. It will also provide coordination between industry and educators while supporting awards, recognition, and promotion of student work-based learning projects. The *Curricular Resource Management (CRM)* grant will develop and distribute crucial instructional resources to teachers regarding agriculture, food, and natural resource careers. Proposed funding level is \$1,387,000 in fiscal year 2023. FCAE grants are competitive and awarded to the best applicants as determined through merit-based review.
- Approximately 5% of Agricultural Education funds are allocated to *Growing Agricultural Science Teacher (GAST)* grants. Funds support the recruitment, development, and retention of both preservice and early-career agricultural education teachers. Proposed funding level is \$320,000 in fiscal year 2023. Each University participating will receive \$40,000, and each junior or community college participating will receive \$20,000. GAST grants are competitive and awarded to applicants that meet the eligibility requirements.
- Approximately 3% of Agricultural Education funds are allocated to the *Agricultural Education Preservice Internship program*. Funds support the development of preservice teachers through a comprehensive internship experience focused on various career pathways in agriculture, translation of these experiences to the classroom, and the management of student projects and related-FFA opportunities. Proposed funding level is \$225,640 in fiscal year 2023. The Preservice Internship Program is a competitive grant and is awarded to the best applicant as determined through merit-based review.
- Approximately 1% of Agricultural Education funds are allocated to the *Incentive Grant for Agriculture Teacher Preparation Programs*. Funds support the improvement of the teacher preparation program through new instructional technology, professional services, equipment, travel, materials, and supplies. Proposed funding level is \$80,000 for fiscal year 2023. This formula grant calculates individual allocations based on an annual quality indicator application provided by ISBE.
- The remaining 27% of Agricultural Education funds are allocated to *Incentive Grants for Programs in Grades 5-12*. Funds support the improvement of the local agricultural education program through new classroom technology, curriculum resources, professional services, materials, and equipment, etc. Proposed funding level is \$1,877,360 in fiscal year 2023. Approximately \$100,000 will be used for new startup programs. This formula grant calculates individual allocations based on an annual quality indicator application provided by ISBE.

Population and Service Levels by Grant Program

Teacher Three Circle Grants	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22 Estimated	FY23 Projected
Participating Districts	160	186	236	239	280
Participating Teachers	220	261	291	310	335
Average Allocation per Teacher	\$8,859	\$9,112	8,762	\$9,369	\$9,552
Total Dollars	\$1,948,928	\$2,378,221	\$2,549,710	\$2,904,572	\$3,200,000

*Teacher Three Circle Grants continue to increase in total need as more programs choose to participate in the grant and as participating teachers' salaries grow in value.

Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education Grants	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22 Estimated	FY23 Projected
Agricultural Literacy Coalitions	79	78	73	78	83
PreK-8 Students Reached	664,534	463,642	163,981	400,000	670,000
School-based Ag Ed. Programs	311	354	355	359	365
Agricultural Education Teachers	432	444	451	477	500
Total Dollars	\$1,633,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,387,000

*Number of PreK-8 students reached in FY20 and FY21 was impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Growing Agricultural Science Teachers (GAST) Grants	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22 Estimated	FY23 Projected
University Participants	4	4	4	4	4
Community College Participants	3	4	4	4	6
Preservice Teachers	119	116	150	142	165
Early Career (Years 1-5) Teachers	119	143	173	195	205
Total Dollars	\$119,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$320,000

*College programs in Agriculture are growing across Illinois, and this increase accounts for anticipated growth in eligible recipients.

Preservice Internship Program	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22 Estimated	FY23 Projected
Preservice Interns	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	16
Universities Represented	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	5
Total Dollars	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$120,320	\$225,640

*This is a new program mandated in legislation (Reference Here) and will pilot in FY22. The program is designed to grow in FY23 to 16 total internships, which accounts for the increase in allocation. In FY24, the program will be at full capacity with 24 internships offered and a total allocation of \$381,120.

Incentive Grants for Agriculture Teacher Preparation Programs	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22 Estimated	FY23 Projected
University Participants	4	4	4	4	4
Postsecondary Students	150	145	276	257	287
Total Dollars	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$80,000

*Incentive funds for teacher preparation programs have remained stable over past fiscal years, and while priority for funding has always been on local middle and high school students, college programs need more support.

Incentive Grants for Agricultural Education Programs in Grades 5-12	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22 Estimated	FY23 Projected
AFNR Students (Grade 5-12)	34,500	34,915	32,656	35,000	36,000
Participating Schools	311	354	355	359	365
Total Dollars	\$1,773,160	\$1,188,864	\$1,022,227	\$555,108	\$1,837,360

*Incentive funds have experienced a significant decrease in the past five fiscal years due to growing participation in other Ag Ed grant programs which are having significantly positive impacts on the statewide program of agricultural education. Increase in fiscal year 23 returns these funds to their previous levels and accounts for a growing number of local programs.