

**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 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 and are subject to annual appropriation and funding priority as detailed in section D.**

B. ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATIONS

Eligible Student: is an individual who:

- A.** 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;
- B.** 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;
- C.** 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;
- D.** 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
- E.** 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.
- F.** 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

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

Dairy-Related Internship - a 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.

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.

Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA)

D. FUNDING

The Missouri Dairy Scholars Program is funded from an annual appropriation from general revenue into the Missouri Dairy Industry Revitalization Fund, created by the passage of House Bill 259 during the 2015 Missouri legislative session. Moneys appropriated from the general revenue fund shall not exceed forty percent (40%) of the estimated sales tax revenue generated in the state from the sale of dairy products during the preceding fiscal year, and shall be expended in the following order of priority to programs funded from the Missouri Dairy Industry Revitalization Fund:

- a. First, to the dairy producer margin insurance premium assistance program created under section 261.280 RSMo (2015);
- b. Second, to the Missouri Dairy Scholars Program created under section 261.285 RSMo; and
- c. Third, to the Commercial Agriculture Program at the University of Missouri authorized

Scholarships awarded through the Missouri Dairy Scholars Program will be contingent each year upon:

- a. Annual appropriations from general revenue to the Missouri Dairy Industry Revitalization Fund
- b. Shall be distributed according to the priority order listed above
- c. Applicants that are eligible students.

E. EVALUATION AND FUNDING CRITERIA

Scholarships will be selected on a competitive basis. 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

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.

F. APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Dairy Scholars Program Application Submission:** Eligible students must submit a complete application packet to be **received** no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2016. 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. 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.
 - d. Copy of final high school transcript
 - e. Copy of most recent college transcript, if applicable
 - f. Two letters of reference
 - g. Completed Employer Certification or Commitment for dairy-related work or internship on a form provided by MASBDA

G. APPROVAL PROCESS

Applications will be scored and ranked using the Evaluation and Funding Criteria listed in Section E by a panel of no less than 3 judges familiar with Missouri's agricultural and dairy industries.

H. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

After graduation, the student will be required to provide MASBDA with an Employer Certification Form (provided by MASBDA) certifying employment in the agriculture industry in Missouri.

I. 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 this agreement with interest from the time the scholarship monies were awarded at an annual percentage rate determined by the Authority 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.

J. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

To be considered for the 2016 - 2017 school year, applications must be **received no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2016.**

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



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MISSOURI AGRICULTURAL AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MASBDA)

Dairy Scholars Scholarship Program Application

Please Print or Type

SECTION 1 - ELIGIBLE STUDENT INFORMATION (20 points)

| | | | |
|---|--|---|----------|
| NAME (First, Middle, Last) | | E-MAIL ADDRESS | |
| PERMANENT ADDRESS (STREET/P.O. BOX) | CITY | STATE | ZIP CODE |
| TELEPHONE NUMBER | SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER | COUNTY | |
| DATE OF BIRTH | FINAL HIGH SCHOOL GPA: | CURRENT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY GPA: (If applicable) | |
| NAME AND LOCATION OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY | EXPECTED MAJOR: EXPECTED MINOR (If applicable): NUMBER OF COMPLETED CREDIT HOURS: (If applicable) ANTICIPATED YEAR OF COLLEGE GRADUATION: | | |
| PLEASE LIST PREVIOUS SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED, INCLUDING HIGH SCHOOL(S), AND THEIR LOCATION(S) _____ _____ _____ | | | |

SECTION 2 - WORK EXPERIENCE OR INTERNSHIP (25 points)

(Check One) ☐ DAIRY-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE OR INTERNSHIP ☐ DAIRY FARM WORK EXPERIENCE OR INTERNSHIP

NAME OF BUSINESS/FARM _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Dates of Work: (if completed) _____ to _____ Expected Dates of Work _____ to _____

Total Number of Hours: (if completed) _____ Expected Number of Hours _____

*If work experience/internship has been completed, please attach the completed Placement Certification Form

Please summarize your experiences, talent, or expertise you have gained, or hope to gain, from this work experience or internship:

SECTION 3 – CAREER PLANS (25 points) – Please outline your career plans (300 words or less)

SECTION 4 - REMEDIES

If a violation or a breach of the terms in the guidelines occurs with any of the provisions of the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship program, the Missouri Department of Agriculture and MASBDA may terminate the applicant's admission into the program and immediately recall or seek reimbursement for all sums paid to the scholarship recipient under this 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.

SECTION 5 - CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENT

Pursuant to the "Guidelines and Procedures" document for the "Dairy Scholars Program" issued by the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority, the Applicant (listed below), hereby certifies the following:

1. I am an "eligible student," who:

- (a) 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 on a four-point scale or equivalent;
- (b) 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;
- (c) Will maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-point scale or equivalent while enrolled in the college or university program;
- (d) Has worked, or will work, on a dairy farm or have a dairy-related internship for at least three months (minimum of 400 hours) of each year I receive the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship;

- (e) Agrees to work in the agriculture industry in Missouri for at least two years for every one year I receive a Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship, and
- (f) Am enrolled as a full-time student (minimum of 12 credit hours) each semester.

SECTION 5 - CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENT - CONTINUED

2. I fully understand and agree to the following:

- (a) I will use the proceeds of this scholarship for educational expenses.
- (b) I will send written notice to the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) within thirty (30) days after any change in enrollment status.
- (c) I will send to MASBDA a progress report that shows my completed semester grades within 30 days from the end of the semester and if not completed, progress on completing my dairy related internship.
- (d) I commit to work 3 months (minimum of 400 hours) in a dairy-related internship approved by MASBDA during the 12 month period in which I receive a scholarship from the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship program.
- (e) I commit to work in the agriculture industry in Missouri for two years for every one year I receive the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship.
- (f) I commit to provide a completed placement form to MASBDA within six (6) months of the year of graduation from a two-year or four-year college or university in Missouri.
- (g) If awarded a scholarship, (\$5,000) will be awarded subject to budget appropriations.
- (h) If I violate any of the provisions of the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship program, then the Missouri Department of Agriculture and MASBDA may immediately recall or seek reimbursement for all sums paid to the scholarship recipient under this 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.
- (i) If I violate any of the provisions of the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship program, the Missouri Department of Agriculture and MASBDA may terminate my admission into the program and seek any appropriate remedial action to recover any amount owed.

3. I grant permission for an authorized representative of MASBDA to verify the work experience listed above with the contact listed, and understand this employment will be verified prior to my application being scored.

I certify the information contained in this application is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that all scholarship funds received will be used only for educational purposes for the academic year covered by this application.

I understand I am making a commitment to 1) be enrolled in an approved agriculture-related degree program in a two or four-year college or university in Missouri, maintaining a minimum of a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4 point scale (or equivalent), 2) fulfill a three month (400 hours) dairy-related internship for the academic year covered by this application, and 3) provide proof of employment in the agriculture industry in Missouri for at least two years for every one year I receive the Missouri Dairy Scholars Scholarship.

Name of Scholarship Applicant (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name (if applicant is under 18) _____

Parent Signature (if applicant is under 18) _____ Date: _____

SECTION 7- ATTACHMENTS

- ☐ Copy of Missouri Driver's License (or other proof of Missouri residency and U.S. Citizenship as listed in program guidelines)
- ☐ Copy of Final High School Transcript
- ☐ Copy of Letter of Acceptance or Proof of Enrollment in a Agriculture-Related Degree Program
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Certification of Dairy-Related Work Experience or Internship
- ☐ Two Letters of Reference
- ☐ Copy of most recent official college/university transcript (If Applicable)
 - ☐ Attached, or
 - ☐ Sent directly from the school

To be considered for the 2016 - 2017 school year, applications must be **received** no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2016. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

SUBMIT TO:

MASBDA
DAIRY SCHOLARS PROGRAM
PO BOX 630
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102-0630
TELEPHONE: (573) 751-2129
FAX: (573) 522-2416
masbda@mda.mo.gov