

NEBRASKA RURAL RADIO FOUNDATION (NRRF)

GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

For A NRRF Scholarship

Mission Statement: "The Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation will help rural Nebraskans acquire educational opportunities and assist other groups in telling the story of agriculture."

Program Purpose: To financially support short term educational opportunities for agricultural producers, who are facing transition, to enable them to continue to live, work and be a valued asset in their rural community. This effort will focus on individuals who are seeking new skills, through a program of study at a community or technical college, college or other shorter term educational opportunity, and is not generally designed for those seeking a four year college degree.

Amount of Grant: (options and amounts for board consideration):

- #1. The Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation will provide \$2,500 to be used for tuition, fees, books, and related expenses. Payment will be made directly to the participating college or school as well as the recipient.
- #2. The Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation will provide \$5,000 for tuition and books of which \$2,500 will be provided in the form of a grant and \$2,500 as an interest free loan to be paid back to the Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation. Payment will generally be made payable to the participating college or school. Loan repayment will be made over a period of time not to exceed three years and will be due on July 1st of year.

Selection Criteria:

- √ Applicant must be committed to the future of the industry of agriculture and rural communities in Nebraska.
- √ Applicant must presently be, or have been within the past six months, actively involved in farming and/or ranching.
- √ Applicant must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Nebraska for at least ten years.
- √ Applicants in the general age range of 25 to 55 will be given preference.
- √ Applicants may be either male or female but only one member of the same immediate family may accept a stipend, and be participating in a program of study, at any given time. (Immediate family being defined as husband, wife, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister.)
- √ Applicant will demonstrate solid evidence of character and reputation as indicated by two business and two personal letters of reference.
- √ Applicants will be expected to clearly identify a career plan, which will provide the opportunity to return to a rural community in Nebraska in which to live and work after having completed the educational experience, as a part of the written application.

√ Applicants selected from the initial review of written applications may be asked to participate in a personal interview in one of three NRRF districts of the state as determined by the NRRF. The interviews may be conducted in person or by means of a conference call.

√ Applications are accepted and will be considered throughout the calendar year.

√ Applicants will be notified by the NRRF with respect to status, approved or not approved. Applications will not be returned and reasons for final decisions will not be provided.

√ Applications not selected in one year will not automatically be reconsidered in future years. Further interest will require the applicant to resubmit a new application.

√ Applicants will not be considered for more than one grant during their lifetime.

√ Applicant agrees to sign, as a part of the application process, a liability waiver form to waive any and all legal liability claims, present or future, against the NRRF, its board of directors, officers, donors, or any other legal entity of the Nebraska Rural Radio Association its affiliates, employees, officers and members.

√ Applicant must support and abide by all agreements, policies, rules and regulations of the Nebraska Rural Radio Foundation.

√ Applications will be submitted in writing on the application form provided by the foundation. All applications will be reviewed and carefully considered without regard to age, gender, race or other such considerations.