



November 12, 2018

Dear Guidance Counselor,

**Do you have high school seniors attending college next fall pursuing a major and career related to agriculture? Those students are ideal applicants for the \$2,000 Farm Credit Illinois Agriculture Scholarship!**

**Thirty \$2,000 scholarships** are available to high school seniors planning to enroll in an agriculture-based college curriculum next fall. Two applicants will be designated as "Diversity in Agriculture Scholars;" please consider sharing an enclosed information card with under-represented minority students interested in an agriculture-related major.

All applicants – including potential Diversity in Agriculture Scholars – will complete the same application and academic verification forms. Recipients receive \$1,000 for the Fall 2019 semester and the remaining \$1,000 is available to students who continue pursuing an agricultural degree during the Fall 2021 semester. Recipients must reside – or their family must farm – in one of the 60 central and southern Illinois counties served by Farm Credit Illinois. The application deadline is **March 1, 2019**.

Selection criteria includes academic achievement, participation and leadership within school and community organizations, and a commitment to pursuing an agriculture-related career. Applicants may be interested to know FCI replaced the essay portion of the application with a video submission. Students will create a 30-45 second video capturing their passion for agriculture. Specific video instructions are listed within the application.

The University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) offers a full \$2,000 scholarship match to 2019 Farm Credit Illinois Agriculture Scholars who enroll full-time in the College of ACES either initially in the Fall 2019 semester or as a transfer student in Fall 2021. More information about the scholarship match is available from the U of I College of ACES.

The scholarship application can be found at [www.farmcreditil.com](http://www.farmcreditil.com). Direct students to click on the respective home page story link. Information about FCI's community improvement grant program, offering \$500 to 4-H clubs and FFA chapters implementing projects, can also be found on our homepage, if you are aware of any groups who may be interested. Contact us with questions at the email address or phone number listed at the top of the page.

We genuinely value your help in identifying potential college bound students who may benefit from the scholarship program and invite you to display the enclosed poster in your school.

As the New Year approaches, we hope you'll enjoy using the enclosed FCI Focus on Farming calendar. Farm Credit Illinois wishes you and your school a successful 2019!

Yours sincerely,

Rod Stoll  
Vice President, Marketplace Engagement