



USDA AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM STUDENT DIVERSITY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



Would you like to attend USDA's 2010 annual Agricultural Outlook Forum in Washington, D.C.?

USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum provides producers, policymakers, business leaders, and government and industry analysts with a unique opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss timely issues at the forefront of America's agriculture. In an effort to increase the present and future diversity of participation in the Forum, USDA created a program that provides sponsorship opportunities for junior and senior baccalaureate students to attend this annual 2-day event.

The 2010 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held February 18-19 in Arlington, Virginia, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will host an introductory briefing featuring agencies participating in the Forum and a discussion of USDA internships and career opportunities. The USDA Outlook Forum Diversity Program benefits all parties involved and promotes diverse participation that educates baccalaureate students about agribusiness, the latest research, future trends, and policy in contemporary agriculture.

TARGET: The program targets between 15-18 agriculture, agricultural economics, agricultural communications, agricultural business, or pre-veterinary junior or senior undergraduate students. Students will come from Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources institutions.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Each institution will submit a letter of recommendation for up to two students along with the student's one-page essay titled "Agriculture as a Career." Each institution performs a "pre-selection" process by choosing the two best essays among the applicants for final consideration. Students should submit their essays to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean/department chair). Institutions must submit their two best essays and recommendations to NIFA by October 16, 2009, to: amclaren@nifa.usda.gov. Essays must include student's name, address, phone number, and e-mail. Final selections will be made by Lisa Purnell, USDA Liaison Officer, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Two positions are reserved for UMES students. USDA reserves permission to post selected winning essays online.

TRAVEL ITINERARY: Registration, transportation, lodging, and Forum meals are provided for the students. If a student's school is located within a convenient driving distance to DC (4 hours or less), a government mileage rate and hotel parking are reimbursed, or these students may elect to take the bus or train. Students will arrive in Washington, D.C., February 17, 2010, and return home February 19, 2010.

Private-sector Sponsorship Includes: CHS, Inc., Deere & Company, Tyson Foods, Inc., Farm Credit Bank of Texas, and Agfirst Farm Credit Bank.

ESSAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 16, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please visit: www.usda.gov/oce/forum or contact Brenda Chapin, Forum Coordinator, at 202-720-5447 or bchapin@oce.usda.gov

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