

# United States Department of Agriculture

## USDA/1890 National Scholars Program 2021 High School Application



## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) 1890 National Scholars Program. The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 as part of the partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.

The goal of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and other related disciplines. The program is open to high school seniors, college freshmen and sophomores who exhibit exemplary leadership traits and demonstrated community service. The Scholarship is highly competitive and provides for full tuition payment, among other benefits, for up to 4-years to selected students enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an 1890 Land-Grant University. The 1890 National Scholars Program partners with USDA agencies to provide scholars with professional and educational opportunities. A sponsoring USDA Agency Coordinator will be assigned to the scholar. However, the USDA Liaison will be the primary point of contact for the scholar. The USDA Sponsoring Agency will work closely with scholars to provide ongoing support and ensure the scholar is on track with degree requirements.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is implemented under the USDA Fellows Experience Program (FEP). Successful applicants will receive a temporary appointment to the USDA, not to exceed 4 years. Upon successful completion of the degree requirements and the end of the agreement period, the scholar is eligible for conversion to a career conditional appointment in service to USDA without further competition.

### **The USDA/1890 National Scholar is required to:**

- ✓ Reimburse the USDA Sponsoring Agency for costs of education (excluding the employee's pay and allowances) incurred by the USDA sponsoring agency, if the scholar voluntarily separates from the service of the USDA sponsoring agency before the end of the period for which the scholar has agreed to continue in the service of the USDA.
- ✓ Consult with and obtain the approval of the USDA Liaison and Sponsoring USDA Agency prior to making any changes to their academic program. Unapproved changes may affect the Scholar's continued participation in the program, such as scholar's participation in study abroad programs, third party internships and leave of absence. The Scholar is expected to meet with the USDA Liaison and Agency Coordinator to go over degree classes and ongoing academic status.
- ✓ The Scholar must coordinate summer work experience through their work site manager.
- ✓ The Scholar must report to work site and have a record of their individual development plan.

Again, thank you for your interest in the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program and best wishes in your pursuit of academic excellence!

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**USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

**OVERVIEW and AUTHORITIES**

The USDA/1890 National Program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities. The program awards scholarships to students accepted to or attending one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or related academic discipline(s).

**The Land-Grant Universities are as follows:**

Alabama A&M University (Alabama)	North Carolina A&T State University (North Carolina)
Alcorn State University (Mississippi)	Prairie View A&M University (Texas)
Central State University (Ohio)	South Carolina State University (South Carolina)
Delaware State University (Delaware)	Southern University (Louisiana)
Florida A&M University (Florida)	Tennessee State University (Tennessee)
Fort Valley State University (Georgia)	Tuskegee University (Alabama)
Kentucky State University (Kentucky)	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff (Arkansas)
Langston University (Oklahoma)	University of Maryland Eastern Shore (Maryland)
Lincoln University (Missouri)	Virginia State University (Virginia)
	West Virginia State University (West Virginia)

- Legislative Authority of the Second Morrill Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321-326 and 328);
- National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-113, 1402, et seq 7 U.S.C. §3101);
- Office of Personnel Management, Training (5 C.F.R part 410);
- Schedule A (r) federal Experience Authority (5 C.F.R. 213.312 ((r));
- Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR ACT), Title IX, Section 922 (7 U.S.C § 2279c);
- Executive Order 13779, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, signed February 18, 2017 continued by Executive Order 13811, signed September 29 September 2017.
- Conversion to Career Conditional Appointment Farm Bill 2018 (5 CFR 213.3102) authority code “ZLM”.

**PURPOSE****The purpose of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is:**

- ✓ To strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.
- ✓ To promote increase and cooperation among the parties in all areas of mutual interest.
- ✓ To improve USDA's outreach efforts within the communities served by 1890 Land-Grant Universities and USDA.
- ✓ To increase the number of students studying and pursuing careers in agriculture, food sciences, and natural resource sciences or other related disciplines.

**OBJECTIVE**

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in any of the fields of study within agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines.

Examples of required fields of study or related disciplines are:

- Agribusiness
- Agriculture/Biological Regulatory Science
- Agricultural Production and Technology
- Agronomy or Crop Sciences
- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics Sciences
- Animal Sciences
- Aquaculture/Fisheries
- Biological System Engineering
- Botany
- Business Management
- Entomology
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Farm and Range Management
- Financial Management
- Forestry and Related Sciences
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources Management
- Nutrition
- Soil Conservation /Soil Science
- Water Resource Management
- Other Related Disciplines (e.g., pre-veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, computer sciences, non-medical biological sciences)

**AWARD**

Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities. Each award is renewable each year for the term of the scholarship and provides full tuition, fees, books, and room and board. The scholarship renewal is contingent upon satisfactory academic performance, summer work performance and academic progress toward the bachelor's degree.

## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

### Applicant must:

- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen
- ✓ Intend to study agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or other related academic disciplines
- ✓ Have a high school cumulative **unweighted GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)**
- ✓ Have applied for admission to an 1890 Land-Grant University.
- ✓ Demonstrate leadership and community service

## INSTRUCTIONS

Only completed application packages submitted by the deadline will be considered. All application materials must be submitted in one application package. Complete application packages must include the following:

- ✓ Signed and dated application including signature of parent of guardian, if the applicant is under the age of 18, a Completed Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form (no copies – only original signatures will be accepted)
- ✓ Completed Biographical Questionnaire
- ✓ High School Counselor’s Assessment Report in a sealed envelope
- ✓ High School Teacher’s Assessment Report in a sealed envelope
- ✓ Submit the most recent official transcript with the school seal and/or the signature of an authorized school official
- ✓ Submit a 500-800-word essay on one (1) of the following topics.
  - My interest in working for USDA.
  - How I envision the scholarship will impact me personally and my future as a public servant.
  - My experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences and natural resource sciences or other related disciplines as related to agriculture.
- ✓ Submit an original signed and dated application

Applicants are responsible for obtaining the Assessment Reports from the High School Counselor and the High School Teacher. These Assessment Reports should be in a sealed

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envelope and included with the application package. All application materials must have original signatures and seals/stamps.

Application materials containing photocopied signatures and transcripts will not be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

All application materials must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2021 and sent to the USDA Liaison at the university or universities selected by the applicant.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

If selected, the student will be contacted by the sponsoring Agency Coordinator. The applicant will be given an opportunity to ask questions related to the agency, job, and program expectations. Selected applicants should contact their USDA Liaison and Agency Coordinator with any unanswered questions or concerns related to the agency, summer experience, or academic requirements.

**Applications Must Be Postmarked by January 31, 2021.**

*Note: The application may also be printed out and filled in by hand in black or blue ink only.*

**PRIVACY ACT ADVISORY STATEMENT**

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for information. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements for this Act, please be advised:

1. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.
2. The data will be used for selection of 1890 National Program, printing certificates, and related activities.
3. The data is maintained in a privacy act system as defined by National Archives and Records Administration under OMB.
4. Failure to complete this form will mean you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as a USDA/1890 National Scholar.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ understand that I am a candidate for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am selected as a Scholar, permission is hereby given for the release of materials submitted by me for the use of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities as deemed appropriate for purposes of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

I further consent to the release of photographs that may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I am (check one)  willing  unwilling to appear on radio and/or television if such arrangements are made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Original signatures only. Photocopies will not be accepted.*

**Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire (Please Print)**

The following questions are designed to collect information about your background, your interests, and your plans. Your answers to these questions will be used only in connection with your application for this scholarship program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see them during their duties.

**A. Biographical Information**

Legal Name

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  Male  Female

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Citizen  Yes  No

Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Education**

Name of Current High School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Grade point averages and standardized test scores should match supporting documentation submitted by counselor. Do not apply if you do not meet these criteria.*



1. List any other schools that you attended in the last 4 years. List the schools in order of attendance, with the one you attended most recently listed first.

Name of school	Location (City & State)	Dates of Attendance

2. List any advanced or special program, courses, or summer courses you have taken. List the most recent course or program first.

Course or Program	Name of School	Address	Dates of Attendance	Hours per Week

3. Name(s) of the 1890 University (or Universities) to which you are applying, in order of preference (i.e. 1 =Most Preferred, 3=Least Preferred):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Applicants applying to more than one 1890 Land-Grant University must submit separate 1890 National Program applications for each university.*

4. What course of study (major) will you pursue?

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Other Related Discipline/Unlisted Major (Please Identify):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note: All academic disciplines may not be available at every 1890 Land-Grant University. Check the University's academic offerings before applying.**

5. Have you made career decisions related to agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences or related disciplines?

Yes       No

If yes, please explain below:

**C. Activities**

1. List extracurricular activities in which you have participated in school or in the community (i.e. academic activities such as 4-H, FFA, debate, sports, music, art, etc.).

Activity	Dates of Participation	Office(s) Held	Special Award(s)

2. List volunteer and paid positions you have held in the past 4 years (including summer employment).

Volunteer or Paid Positions	Employer/Organization	Date of Service or Employment	Hours per Week	Special Award(s)

**D. Candidates Self-Assessment**

1. Please list your hobbies and how each plays a role in your personal development.

2. Describe activities in which you had a leadership role in your school or in your community.

3. Describe a recent experience that has given you a sense of satisfaction or pride.

4. Briefly discuss why have you chosen to study agricultural, or a related discipline.

**Review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proofread your responses.**

**I certify that I have completed this application and that all statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.**

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Print your Legal Name:

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Applicant's Signature:

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Date Signed:

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature:

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Print Name (Parent or Legal Guardian): Note: If the applicant is a child, under the age of 18, parental or legal guardian signature is required.

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Parent or Legal Guardian Signature:

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Date Signed:

*Note: This form and all other application materials must be postmarked by January 31, 2021.*

How did you hear about the 1890 National Scholars Program Scholarship? (Select all that apply.)

College Fair(s):

Name of Event(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Informational Session:

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Service Announcement:

Stations: \_\_\_\_\_

Direct Mail/E-mail:

Source of Communication: \_\_\_\_\_

USDA Employee:

Name of Employee(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Place of Worship:

Name of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Website(s):

Name of Website(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Social Media:

Name of Site/App(s): \_\_\_\_\_







E. Secondary School Record

The applicant's official secondary school transcript (with seal and signature by an authorized official), including grades 9 through 12 must be attached to this section of the application. If the official transcript is not provided, the applicant will not be considered for the scholarship.

*Note: If the applicant is enrolled in official college courses (i.e. dual degree), please submit an official transcript from the college as well.*

Counselor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form and the candidate's transcript must be included in the student's application package. Applicants applying to more than one 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant University must submit separate USDA/1890 National Scholars application packages for each school. The complete application packages must be postmarked by **January 31, 2021**.

**USDA/1890 National Scholar Program**  
 Secondary School Report School Teacher Assessment Report

The application for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship requires a carefully considered character and ability assessment by a teacher who knows the student well, including a summary of other teachers' judgments of the student.

Applicant's Full Name

Last	First	Middle	Suffix

**A. Name of Teacher**

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix

Address	Phone Number

B. Length of Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

C. Considering this student's interests, work habits, and life goals, what is your assessment as to whether the student will be motivated to take advantage of the opportunities available in college? Please give reasons for your assessment.

D. What special features are a part of your school's curriculum (e.g., AP and honors courses, college study, and independent study)? Has the student taken advantage of the most challenging opportunities your school has to offer?

E. Has the student shown exceptional talent or originality in agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and/or other related disciplines?

Yes     No

Please explain in this section:

Strengthens:

Weaknesses:

**F.** Sometimes, special circumstances should be considered when evaluating a student's achievement records and test scores. If in your opinion, this student may have been disadvantaged by any such circumstances, please specify. \*Additional pages may be attached if needed. \*

**G. Indicate comments made by teachers about the student relative to the following:**

**1. Participation in discussion:**

- Always involved, often initiates discussion
- Occasionally participates
- Seldom participates
- Not applicable

**2. Involvement in classroom activities:**

- Active, usually shows genuine interest
- Mild, politely attentive
- Unenergetic
- Seldom participates

**3. Pursuit of independent study:**

- Considerable study and major project(s)
- Some study and minor project(s)
- No evidence of independent study
- Not applicable

**4. Evenness of performance:**

- Even, varies no more than one mark Slightly uneven
- Uneven, often carries two marks
- Erratic fluctuates greatly
- Inadequate opportunity to observe

**5. Critical and questioning attitude:**

- Often challenges
- Occasionally probes
- Rarely questions
- Not applicable

**6. Depth of understanding:**

- Excellent insight
- Good understanding
- Some insight
- Little understanding
- Not applicable

**7. Personal responsibility:**

- Always accepts fully
- Usually accepts fully
- Sometimes refuses
- Often refuses

**8. Consideration for others:**

- Always considerate of others' rights and feelings
- Usually considerate
- Sometimes inconsiderate
- Often inconsiderate

**9. Population of the community in which your school is located:**

- Less than 500
- 500 – 1,500
- 1,500 – 5,000
- 5,000 – 25,000
- 25,000 – 100,000
- Over 100,000

**10. What economic or social conditions characterize the community and most of the parents of the children in your school?**

- Rural farming area
- Industrial Small
- Large city,
- Metropolitan area
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

This form and the candidate's transcript must be included in the student's application package. Applicants applying to more than one 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant University must submit separate USDA/1890 National Scholars application packages for each university. The complete application packages must be postmarked by **January 31, 2021**.

### USDA/1890 National Application Checklist

- I have read the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria.
- I have applied to each 1890 Land-Grant Institution of interest.
- I am submitting an original application and transcript to each 1890 Land-Grant Institution of interest (see addresses on pages 24-25 of this application).
- I completed the Candidate's Biographical Information section.
- I have included and signed the Secondary School Report from my high school counselor and explained the need to have all official transcripts with a seal.
- I have included the signed School Teacher Assessment.
- I have signed and dated the application (**original signature only**). If under the age of 18 years old, parents or guardians have signed my application.
- I have enclosed the 500-800-word essay.
- I understand that the full application package must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2021, for consideration for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

## 1890 Land-Grant Universities Liaison Directory

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Alabama A&M University  
Post Office Box 1087  
Normal, AL 35762  
(202) 570-3926

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Fort Valley State University  
1005 State University Drive  
Pettigrew Center, Room 244  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
(202) 253-4218

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Alcorn State University  
1000 ASU Drive, Room 1139  
104 Agriculture Science Building  
Lorman, MS 39096  
(202) 596-0478

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Kentucky State University  
Cooperative Extension Facility  
400 East Main Street, Room 221  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(202) 570-5202

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Central State University 1400  
Brush Row Road  
McLin Building, Room 210  
Wilberforce, OH 45384  
(202) 596-0140

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Langston University  
School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences  
100 Success Drive, Room V 115  
Langston, OK 73050  
(202) 263-9209

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Delaware State University  
CARS Ag Annex, Room 108F  
Dover, DE 1991  
(202) 308-7687

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Lincoln University  
818 Lee Drive; 108 Bennett Hall  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
(202) 264-0736

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Florida A&M University  
1740 South Martin L. King Jr., Boulevard  
Room 217, S. Perry-Paige Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100  
(202) 510-6301

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
North Carolina A&T University  
1601 East Market Street  
107 B.C. Webb Hall  
Greensboro, NC 27411  
(202) 281-8214



## 1890 Land-Grant Universities Liaison Directory

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Prairie View A&M University  
P. O. Box 2736  
Prairie View, TX 77446  
(202) 302-4712

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
South Carolina State University  
300 College Avenue, N.E.  
P.O. Box 7246  
Orangeburg, SC 29117  
(202) 596-4442

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Southern University and A&M College  
Fisher Hall, Room 102  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813  
(202) 302-7255

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Tennessee State University  
3500 John Merritt Boulevard  
Ag Science Dept., Room 20  
P.O. Box 9629  
Nashville, TN 37209-1561  
(202) 596-0226

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
West Virginia State University  
100 Curtis House  
P.O. Box 1000 Institute, WV 25112-1000  
(202) 596-4605

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Tuskegee University  
College of Agriculture, Environmental  
and Nutritional Sciences  
Campbell Hall Room 103  
Tuskegee, AL 36088  
(202) 306-9884

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
University of Arkansas Pine Bluff  
1200 North University Drive  
Mail Slot: 4806  
Pine Bluff, AR 71611-2799  
(202) 306-9810

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
One Backbone Road  
Hazel Hall, Room 3002  
Princess Anne, MD 21853  
(202) 306-7368

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Virginia State University  
P.O. Box 9081; 1 Hayden Drive  
L. Douglas Wilder Building, Room 202C  
Petersburg, VA 23806  
(202) 596-0301

For questions related to this application, please contact:

**The Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement - USDA/1890 Program**

1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 0601 Washington, D.C. 20250 Telephone Number:  
(202) 720-6350 Fax Number: (202) 720-7136

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0503-0015. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 2.6 to 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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