



TO: Land Grant University Agriculture Deans and Directors
FROM: Timothy Brennan, Vice President of External Relations, Farm Foundation
RE: 2020 Washington DC Round Table Cultivator Program
DATE: September 16, 2019

We are pleased to announce a unique opportunity for current students of agriculture to attend the highly-regarded Farm Foundation[®] Round Table through our *Cultivator* program.

Up to six upper class or graduate-level students from an accredited North American college or university will be selected from a competitive pool of applicants to participate in the Round Table meeting **January 8-10, 2020 in Washington DC.**

A program of Farm Foundation, Round Table is an invitational group of 150 c-suite food and agricultural leaders and their guests whom meet semi-annually to discuss issues of importance to agribusiness, the food system and rural communities. The sessions are intended to provide ideas and learning experiences that participants may use in their own activities. **The program for the Washington DC meeting will focus on the future of food and agriculture policy.**

The Round Table meeting officially begins on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 with a day-long tour of agriculture-related sites around the District and will end with an opening reception at The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. Program sessions will be held all day on Thursday the 9th and on the morning of Friday the 10th.

Students selected for the Cultivator Program will receive an award that will cover all program fees and room and board. The nominating university or college will be responsible for the student's travel expenses. If a winning student from a nominating school is unable to attend the Round Table for any reason, another student will be named in their place.

To nominate a student, please read through the attached FAQ, and **apply by October 4, 2019.** Winners will be chosen by the Round Table Scholarship Committee. **Winners will be notified by October 18, 2019.**

We look forward to welcoming the best and brightest agriculture students to this important and prestigious gathering in Washington DC this winter!

Farm Foundation® Round Table Cultivators FAQ

What is Farm Foundation?

Farm Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit focused on economic and policy issues impacting agriculture, the food system and rural regions. We do not lobby or advocate. Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural communities. Our 86-year history of objectivity allows us to bring together diverse groups for meaningful discussions.

What is Farm Foundation® Round Table?

A program of Farm Foundation, the Round Table, is an invitational group of agricultural leaders who meet semi-annually to discuss issues of importance to agribusiness, the food system and rural communities. The sessions are intended to provide ideas and a learning experience that participants may use in their own activities.

What is the Round Table Cultivator program?

The Cultivator program provides awards for up to six undergraduate or graduate-level students from accredited agricultural programs in the United States to attend a Farm Foundation® Round Table meeting.

What does the award cover?

The award covers meeting registration costs and hotel rooms. It will be the responsibility of the student, or nominating institution to cover the cost of travel to and from the Round Table. If a winning student from a nominating university is unable to attend the Round Table for any reason, another student will be selected to take their place.

Who can nominate a student?

Only a dean or director from a participating institution can nominate a student for the Cultivator program. Three months before each Round Table meeting, deans or directors will be invited to select an upper-classman or graduate-level students to attend the Round Table Farm Foundation encourages the sponsoring institution to choose students who have a direct interest in the subject on which the Round Table meeting program will be focused.

What is required for the poster presentation?

Cultivators will be required to prepare a poster that they will host during the Round Table kick-off reception. The subject can focus on the student's research, interests or a current project in which he/she are involved. They will not have to make a presentation – just talk with Round Table members and their guests. Posters should be no smaller than 36'X24' and no bigger and 36x48. They will be affixed to a hard backing.

How will students meet Round Table members?

A Round Table member will be assigned as a host/mentor each Cultivator. Mentors will reach out to the students before the event to let them know how to dress, what to expect, etc. At the meeting Mentors will ensure that the Cultivators are meeting other Round Table members, students, speakers and guests. They will also introduce them during the Round Table lunch.



**Farm Foundation
Round Table Cultivators Program
Application**

NOTE: Please return this application in Word format.



Student Nominee Information

Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Cell Phone	
University	
Major/Field of Study	
Current GPA	
E-Mail Address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Masters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate	

Nominator

Name	
Title	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Cell Phone	
University	
E-Mail Address	

Student Qualifications

Summarize why you think this student nominee would benefit from participating in a Farm Foundation Round Table meeting.

Poster Presentation

Please describe the poster presentation your nominee will share at the Round Table opening reception:

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Person to Notify in Case of Emergency

Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	

Our Policy

It is the policy of Farm Foundation to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

Thank you for your nomination!

Please return this application to:

Timothy Brennan tim@farmfoundation.org



Reactions from the previous Farm Foundation Cultivators

“As a cultivator, I enjoyed all the [Cultivator] posters and the interaction with the Farm Foundation Round Table members. Their insightful questions and suggestions opened up new avenues and helped me think through my research.”

“As a Cultivator I thought all the members were very inclusive and it was comfortable talking to all the members. I learned a lot over the three days and will definitely incorporate suggestions and comments on my way forward.”

“As a Cultivator, I found these discussions very interesting. It is a rare opportunity to interact with leaders of the industry as a student.”

“I absolutely loved being a part of the program. I thought that it was a great experience where I was able to grow as a student and also gain valuable information from not only the speakers, but also from others that were attending the conference.”

“I would like to thank you for starting the Cultivator program. It was a great experience for me and surpassed all of my expectations. I learned so much than I could have imagined and made some great connections to others in the agriculture industry.”

“It was a great opportunity to network with industry leaders which is uncommon for graduate or undergraduate students. I hope that the Cultivator program continues to be a part of future Farm Foundation meetings. I will highly encourage my classmates to apply for this program in the future.”