



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

[Arkansas Department of Agriculture](http://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov)

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CONTACT: Anna Thrash, (501) 529-2689, anna.thrash@agriculture.arkansas.gov

Reminder: Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest Closes September 13

Little Rock, AR – The deadline to apply for the seventh annual Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest is September 13. The Arkansas Grown School Garden Program was created to showcase Arkansas schools that have developed gardens to support innovative and hands-on learning. Schools can be public and private K-12 schools, early care facilities, and alternative learning environments. Applicants may be schools that had a school garden open during the 2019-2020 school year, or any school planning to start a garden in the 2020-2021 school year. The contest is sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas.

“School gardens have proven to be an effective way to help students develop healthy eating habits, while also learning about science, math, and agriculture, Arkansas’s largest industry,” said Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture. “We value our partnership with Farm Credit and appreciate their generosity in providing the funds for the awards,” said Ward.

Online entry forms and program requirements are available at: <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-programs/farm-to-school/-arkansas-grown-school-garden-of-the-year-contest/>. Winners will be formally announced at the Farm to School Celebration in October.

- Best School Garden Start-up Proposal - \$500
- Best Harvest Partnership Garden - \$500
- Best Education Based Garden - \$500
- Best Community Collaboration Garden - \$500
- Overall School Garden Winner - \$1000
- Champion of Sustaining School Garden - \$1000

“As a farmer-owned cooperative, we are excited to continue our support of teachers and projects that engage Arkansas students in food production and agricultural sustainability. Through these partnerships, we can ensure that the valuable role of Arkansas agriculture remains top-of-mind for the next generation,” said Farm Credit Midsouth President & CEO, James McJunkins, on behalf of the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit www.agriculture.arkansas.gov.

With \$4 billion in assets, Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas support rural communities and agriculture across Arkansas with reliable, consistent credit, and financial services.

