



USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Future Leaders in Agriculture Program
in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Would you like to attend USDA's 2024 Agricultural Outlook Forum in Washington, DC?

USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum provides producers, policymakers, business, government, and industry leaders 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 participation at the Forum, USDA created a program providing sponsorship opportunities for junior and senior baccalaureate and graduate students to attend this annual event.

The 2024 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held February 15-16 in Arlington, Virginia, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. Students will travel to Washington, DC on Monday, February 12. On Tuesday, February 13, USDA will host a briefing and discussion of career opportunities. On Wednesday, February 14, students will tour the Nation's capital. On Thursday and Friday, February 15-16, students attend the Forum. The USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Future Leaders in Agriculture Program is designed to expose students to contemporary agribusiness, future trends, scientific research, and agricultural policy in today's real-world environment.

TARGET: The program targets 20 agriculture, agricultural business, agricultural economics, communications, nutrition and food science or pre-veterinary students, who are junior, senior or graduate and who demonstrate leadership at their university and/or in their community. Students (15 undergraduate and 5 graduate) will be selected from Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture.

UNDERGRADUATE SELECTION CRITERIA: Students submit an application, college transcript, and one-page essay titled "Agriculture as a Career" to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean or department chair). Each institution performs a pre-selection process by choosing the final best two essays among the applicants.

GRADUATE SELECTION CRITERIA: Students submit an application, college transcript, and essay (two-page maximum) titled "The Greatest Challenge Facing Agriculture Over the Next 5 Years" to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean or department chair). Each institution performs a pre-selection process by choosing the final best two essays among the applicants.

ESSAY SUBMISSIONS: The institution's Academic Chair/Dean will submit applications, transcripts, and essays (for both graduate and undergraduate students) to futureleaders@usda.gov along with individual letters of recommendation, which discuss the student's leadership ability **by Friday, December 1**. (One undergraduate and one graduate position are reserved for University of Maryland Eastern Shore students.) **Essays must include student's name, major, and year in school.** Applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled full-time in an academic institution as described in the **Target** section at the time of application and the Forum.

TRAVEL ITINERARY: Registration, transportation, and lodging are provided. Students are asked to bring resources to pay for their baggage fees (if applicable) and meals on Monday, February 12. All other meals are provided. Students will arrive in Washington, D.C. on Monday, February 12 and return home Friday, February 16. The winners will be announced in January via the Forum website, press release and blog.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
EASTERN SHORE

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Future Leaders in Agriculture Program
in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore

APPLICATION

The following information will be used only in connection with your application for the Future Leaders in Agriculture Program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see the information in the course of their duties. **Please type or print clearly and submit the completed fillable form, along with the required essay, to your college or university Academic Chair or Dean on or before December 1, 2023 or the deadline established by your school.**

U.S. Citizen Yes No

Female Male

Graduate Undergraduate

Classification (if undergraduate): Junior Senior

Name of College or University: _____

Name: _____
Last First Middle

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____
Cell Home

Nearest Major Airport: _____

FOR USDA USE ONLY:

Recommendation Letter Received Essay Received by Due Date

Airline Reservation Completed Ticket Cost: _____

Outbound Flight (to Reagan National): Inbound Flight:

Airport _____ Airport _____

Date _____ Date _____

Departure Time _____ Departure Time _____

Arrival Time _____ Arrival Time _____

Additional Information

