

2027 AG LEADERS INSTITUTE



Applications Due October 30, 2026

WHY IT MATTERS

The Ag Leaders Institute is more than a leadership program - since 1998, it's been a trusted launchpad for Farm Bureau members who want to shape the future of agriculture and rural Iowa. For over two decades, this program has equipped emerging leaders with the tools, confidence, and connections to make a lasting impact. Through a series of dynamic, interactive sessions, participants gain:

- The latest information and insights on issues important to agriculture
- Practice in developing the leadership skills needed to lead change and tackle challenges critical to agriculture
- A statewide network of leaders in Farm Bureau and agriculture who are committed to the future of rural Iowa

Whether you're already active in your community or just beginning your leadership journey, the Ag Leaders Institute is designed to help you grow, strengthen your leadership, and become a voice for Iowa agriculture.

WHAT ALUMNI ARE SAYING



Ag Leaders was a fun and rewarding experience-the program allowed me to grow and strengthen my leadership and advocacy skills while building lasting friendships across the ag community.

- Jade Schneider, Delaware County



I became part of a tight-knit group of individuals from across the state that shared my passion for agriculture, a welcome change from the isolated machinery, fields, and barns where we spend our days. The skills and tools I learned allow me to confidently share our story of agriculture with others.

If we don't share, the story being told may not be the reality we live.

It truly was one of the greatest experiences I've ever taken part in.

- Jason Sherer, Harrison County



Farm Bureau's Ag Leaders Institute is a great way to challenge your thinking, step out of your comfort zone, and grow both personally and professionally. It's not easy to step away from the demands of everyday life, but the experience is absolutely worth it - you'll leave feeling inspired, energized, and excited to come back for more.

- Sara Mohr, Iowa County



Questions?

Contact Molly Shanahan, Leadership Training Manager

mshanahan@ifbf.org | (515) 225-5430

WHO SHOULD APPLY

We're looking for Farm Bureau members, nominated by their County Farm Bureau, who:

- Care deeply about the future of agriculture and want to make a positive impact
- Show potential for exceptional leadership in their community, county, or state
- Are interested in advancing into leadership roles within Farm Bureau and agriculture

The institute is open to individuals of all ages. Each county may nominate one Farm Bureau member to apply. Each year, 25–30 participants are selected, including one leader from each region and several at-large participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

You'll engage in dynamic, interactive sessions designed to grow your leadership and deepen your impact in agriculture. You'll walk away with:

- Leadership skills to tackle agriculture's biggest challenges
- Confidence to speak up and lead change
- A statewide network of passionate ag leaders
- Insights from Farm Bureau leaders & staff, policymakers, and industry experts

Throughout the program, you'll explore topics such as:

Leadership Development

- DiSC Personality Assessment
- Image & Etiquette Training
- Conflict & Change Management
- Networking & Expanding Influence
- Presentation Skills
- Public Relations & Media Training

Policy & Advocacy

- IFBF Policy Development & Implementation
- AFBF Advocacy & Issue Briefings
- Congressional & USDA Meetings

Farm Bureau Engagement

- County Farm Bureau Planning
- Connecting with Consumers

You'll also benefit from:

- Teamwork & reflection activities
- Guest & family involvement opportunities
- And more!

2026 SCHEDULE

Sessions begin with 12:00pm lunch on Friday and adjourn by 2:30pm Saturday.

Session One:

Jan 15-16 (Des Moines)

Session Two:

Feb 5-6 (Des Moines)
Spouses/Guests Invited

Session Three:

Feb 19-20 (Des Moines)

Session Four:

March 5-6 (Des Moines)

Summer Session:

August 13-14 (Des Moines)
Families Invited / State Fair

Washington D.C.:

September 13-16

Graduation:

December 7-8 (Des Moines)
IFBF Annual Meeting

Full participation is expected at all sessions, including evening events.

Attendance Requirement: *Participants must attend at least four core sessions to be eligible for the Washington, D.C. trip.*

INVESTMENT TO PARTICIPATE

The program is valued at \$6,000 per participant.

- The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation covers most costs, including hotel, meals, and D.C. travel expenses.
- The County Farm Bureau will make an investment of \$200.
- Participants are responsible for transportation to/from Des Moines.

Applications are due October 30, 2026.

To apply, you must have the support of your county Farm Bureau president. Applicants will be notified of selection committee decisions by November 30.

APPLY NOW!

To learn more and apply, visit
www.iowafarmbureau.com/AgLeadersInstitute

