

# Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Farm Business Management Scholarship Policy



2020-2021 Academic Year

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. The MAWQCP Farm Business Management Scholarship Program provides scholarships to water quality certified producers to learn business management strategies that will lead to profitable and competitive farming operations.

The Farm Business Management Program (FBM) is a one on one student led program designed to provide education to farm owners and operators with the purpose of assisting students in meeting their business and personal goals. The program focuses on using quality records and sound business decisions with tools such as the FINBIN Farm Financial Database. Minnesota State Farm Business Management is available through eight Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible for the MAWQCP Farm Business Management Scholarship the student must be a Minnesota agricultural producer, a current Minnesota resident or entity authorized to farm in Minnesota, principal operator of the farm (actively involved in the operation of the farm), and currently MAWQCP certified. If awarded, the student must also complete a farm financial analysis with their FBM instructor.

## **Award Amount**

The MAWQCP Farm Business Management Scholarship will award \$140 per credit (approximately 75% of the cost of tuition) for new FBM students in their first and/or second semester of the FBM program and \$90 per credit (approximately 50% the cost of tuition) for returning students in their third semester or beyond. Students must enroll in a minimum of 2 credits per semester, or 4 per academic year, with a maximum of 10 credits per year. If a student has been out of the FBM program for 3 years or more, they will be considered a new student and eligible for the \$140 per credit rate.

The student's existing scholarship and financial aid will be taken into consideration. The MAWQCP scholarship will cover the remaining tuition balance up to \$140 per credit for a student's first and second semester and up to \$90 per credit for subsequent semesters. Scholarship reimbursement payments will be distributed to the school.

## **Application Period**

Applications for the MAWQCP Farm Business Management Scholarship are accepted and approved on a rolling basis. The deadline for Spring Semester is March 1 and Summer Semester is June 1. Funds are limited and are granted on a first come basis.

## **How to Apply**

Scholarship applications are submitted online. Students will complete the scholarship application in collaboration with their FBM instructor. Once submitted, the student will receive a copy of their application via email. The student and instructor will be notified when the application is approved or denied.

*The data collected from this application will only be used in support of the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Farm Business Management Scholarship. You are not required to provide the MDA with the data requested in this grant application. However, failure to do so will result in the MDA's inability to process your application. While the applications are being received and reviewed, only people with a need to access your data in support of your MAWQCP Scholarship application will have the authority to access the data you provide here unless you give the MDA informed consent to release the data, a court orders the release of the data, or a legislative auditor requests to review the data. After an application has been reviewed and the grant agreement approved, all information in the approved applications will become public data except for trade secret data, if present.*