



Community Excellence Award

Official Rules

1. **Sponsorship and Eligibility.** This contest is sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America, 12501 Lakefront Place, Louisville, Kentucky 40299. There is no purchase necessary to enter or win. The Forward Thinker Award is designed to recognize innovative thinkers among our Growing Forward® program. Eligibility is based on the following criteria:
 - a. An applicant can be an individual or entity.
 - b. Must have attended at least one of the following: a Know to Grow® conference or Know to Thrive (level 2 conference), a Mastering Your Capital workshop a Farm Credit Mid-America sponsored community event or recommended by a Farm Credit Mid-America team member.
 - c. Applicant must not be a Farm Credit Mid-America team member or immediately related to one.
 - d. Applicant must not be a part of the Farm Credit Mid-America Board of Directors or Nominating Committee.
 - e. Applicant must not be a local elected official.
 - f. Applicant must be willing to do an in-person or virtual interview and/or presentation.
 - g. Applicant must complete application packet.
 - h. Applicant must provide a sponsor letter/letter of support along with application.
 - i. Applicant must serve constituents based within the Farm Credit Mid-America operational geography.

This contest is open to legal residents of the United States who are eighteen (18) years or older at the time of entry; however, the contest is void where otherwise prohibited or restricted by law. Employees of Farm Credit Mid-America, its affiliates, licensees, franchisees, advertising and promotional agencies and the immediate family members of each are not eligible. No purchase necessary to enter or win the contest.

2. **Qualification Period.** The qualification period for the contest begins at 12:01 AM (PST) on May 18, 2025 and ends at 11:59 PM (PST) on April 29, 2025.
3. **Entry Procedures.** To enter the contest, you must complete the online application at www.fcma.com/about/community-excellence. Please follow all instructions.
4. **Duties of Participants; Limitation of Liability.** By entering, participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of Farm Credit Mid-America, which shall be final. All federal, state, and local laws apply. Farm Credit Mid-America and the employees, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, and representatives of Farm Credit Mid-America, affiliates, subsidiaries, and advertising, promotion and legal advisors are not responsible for and shall not be liable for: (i) late, lost, delayed, damaged, misdirected, incomplete, illegible, or unintelligible entries; (ii) telephone, electronic, hardware, or



software program, network, Internet, or computer malfunctions, failures, or difficulties; (iii) errors in transmission; (iv) any condition caused by events beyond the control of Farm Credit Mid-America that may cause the contest to be disrupted or corrupted; (v) any injuries, losses, or damages of any kind caused by a prize or resulting from acceptance, possession, or use of a prize, or from participation in the contest; or (vi) any printing or typographical errors in any materials associated with the contest.

5. **Violation of Contest Rules.** Farm Credit Mid-America reserves the right to disqualify any participant or winner who, in its sole suspicion, tampers with the entry process, intentionally submits more than a single entry, violates these rules or the website [Terms of Use](#), or acts in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner.

6. **Selection of Winners.** Prizes will be awarded based upon the following rubric.

Rubric:

1. Background:	30 points
2. Community Involvement:	50 points
3. Leadership Experience:	40 points
4. Presents Community Needs/Challenges:	30 points
5. Strategy Implementation addressing Needs/Challenges:	50 points
6. Application Formatting & Grammar:	10 points
7. Letter of Support	40 points

7. **Description of Prizes.** Contest winners will receive the following prizes: Each award recipient (2) will receive \$2,500, to be received along with a physical award, at a preferred Know to Grow® conference or Know to Thrive conference. In addition, the award recipient will be provided an opportunity to work with the Farm Credit Mid-America Communications Team to develop featured media, if desired.

8. **Notification of Winners; Substitution of Prizes.** Winners will be notified by electronic mail. Farm Credit Mid-America will attempt to re-send said e-mail up to 3 times. If any winner does not respond to e-mail notification within three days of its transmission, or should the e-mail be returned as undeliverable after 3 attempts, the prize will be forfeited and an alternate will be selected using the judging criteria set forth herein. Winners may not substitute or transfer prizes. Farm Credit Mid-America reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value in the event a prize is unavailable. Prizes are not redeemable for cash. All taxes on prize are winners' responsibility. Limit: one prize per household. A list of winners may be obtained by emailing maky_growingforward@fcma.com.

9. **Permissions.** Except where prohibited by law, entry constitutes permission to use winners' names, hometowns and likenesses for online posting, and/or any advertising and publicity without additional compensation. Winners may also be required to sign and return a release of liability, affidavit of eligibility and, where lawful, a publicity consent



agreement, as conditions of receiving a prize.

Failure to comply with the aforementioned conditions shall be grounds for forfeiture of a prize.

10. **Inquiries or Questions.** Any inquiries or questions regarding this contest, including any request for the names of the winners, may be sent by e-mail to maky_growingforward@fcma.com or by regular mail to Farm Credit Mid-America at the address set forth above.