

## **Community Excellence Award**

## Official Rules

- 1. <u>Sponsorship and Eligibility</u>. 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<sup>®</sup> 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.

- 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 <a href="https://www.fcma.com/about/community-excellence">www.fcma.com/about/community-excellence</a>. Please follow all instructions.
- 4. <u>Duties of Participants; Limitation of Liability</u>. 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. <u>Violation of Contest Rules</u>. 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 <u>Terms of Use</u>, or acts in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner.
- **6. Selection of Winners**. Prizes will be awarded based upon the following rubric.

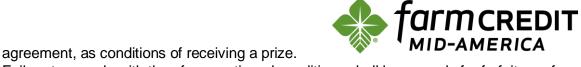
## Rubric:

1. Background:30 points2. Community Involvement:50 points3. Leadership Experience:40 points

4. Presents Community Needs/Challenges:
5. Strategy Implementation addressing Needs/Challenges:
6. Application Formatting & Grammar:
30 points
50 points
10 points

7. Letter of Support 40 points

- 7. <u>Description of Prizes</u>. 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



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

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