

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program in the Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resource Sciences

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program will provide full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books, use of a laptop, printer, and software while on scholarship and room and board each year for 4 years to students pursuing a bachelor's degree at the following universities:

Alabama A&M University
Alcorn State University, Mississippi
Delaware State University
Florida A&M University
Fort Valley State University, Georgia
Kentucky State University
Langston University, Oklahoma
Lincoln University, Missouri
North Carolina A&T State University
Prairie View A&M University, Texas
South Carolina State University
Southern University, Louisiana
Tennessee State University
Tuskegee University, Alabama
University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff
University of Maryland - Eastern Shore
Virginia State University
West Virginia State University

Purpose

The purpose of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is:

- to strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities
- to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or other related disciplines
- to offer career opportunities to USDA/1890 National Scholars at the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Objective

The National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions in any field of study in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or other related disciplines. National Scholars are required to study in the following or related disciplines:

- Agriculture
- Agricultural Business/Management
- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics
- Agricultural Production and Technology
- Agronomy or Crop Science
- Animal Sciences
- Botany

Section I (Information)

- Farm and Range Management
- Fish, Game, or Wildlife Management
- Food Sciences/Technology
- Forestry and Related Sciences
- Home Economics/Nutrition/Human Development
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources Management
- Soil Conservation/Soil Science
- Other related disciplines, (e.g., biological sciences, pre-veterinary medicine, computer science)

The award

Each award provides annual tuition, employment, employee benefits, use of a laptop computer, printer and software while on scholarship, fees, books, room and board for each of the 4 academic years, plus a requirement to work in the Student Educational Employment Program. Each annual scholarship renewal is contingent upon satisfactory performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. Upon completion of the scholar's academic degree program, there is an obligation of 1 year of service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for each year of financial support

Who may apply

Applicants must be U.S. citizens who have a high school diploma or a G.E.D. certificate and are starting their first year of college for a bachelor's degree. (Note: Since this program is intended to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines at participating institutions, currently enrolled bachelor's-level students at these universities are not eligible to apply.)

Application deadline

All application materials must be postmarked no later than **February 1, 2008** and sent to the university(s) selected by the applicant to attend.

General eligibility

Applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be an entering freshman
- Hold a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate
- Have a high school GPA of 3.0 or better
- Have a combined verbal/math/written score of 1,500 or more on the SAT (note: 1000 or more combined for those universities that only accept verbal/math score) or a composite score of 21 or more on the ACT;
- Attend one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions
- Study agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines
- Demonstrate leadership and community service
- Apply for admission to the institution(s) of his or her choice
- Submit an official transcript with the school seal and an authorized official's signature
- Sign all applications (original signature only)

Privacy Act Advisory Statement

Attention Applicant!

Complete pages 1 through 7 only.
PRINT pages 8-10 and submit to your counselor.

Supporting Information of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for information. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements for the Act, please be advised:

1. The authority for the collection of these data is Executive Order 11155.
2. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.
3. The data will be used for selection of USDA/1890 National Scholars, printing of certificates, and related activities.
4. Other routine uses of the data are for preparation of the public affairs and press releases to news media.
5. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as USDA/1890 National Scholar.

Affirmation of Candidacy and Authorization for Release of Information

I, _____, understand that I am a candidate for the honor of USDA/1890 National Scholar, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am named a National Scholar, permission is hereby given for the release of materials submitted by me for the use of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions as deemed appropriate for purposes of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program. I further consent to the release of photographs which may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the Program. I am *(check one)* willing _____ unwilling _____ to appear on radio and/or television if such arrangements can be made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

Signature _____

Date _____

Enter date format as mm-dd-yyyy

Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

The questions that follow are designed to collect information about your background, your interests, and your plans. Your answers to these questions will be used only in connection with your application for this scholarship program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see them in the course of their duties.

Note: The selection of scholarship recipients will be influenced by the completeness, neatness, and legibility of replies. **Please type or print, using black ink.**

A. Biographical Information

Legal name in full (Please print.) _____ Sex F M

Last *First* *Middle*

Permanent home address _____

Number and street *City/Town* *State* *Zip Code*

Telephone _____ Age _____

Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes No

B. Education

1. Name of high school now attending _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

GPA(on a 4.0. scale) _____ ACT COMPOSITE SCORE _____ SAT COMBINED SCORE _____

2. List any other schools that you attended in the last 4 years. List the schools in order of attendance, with the one you attended most recently first.

Name of school	Location (city and state)	Dates of attendance

Section II (Student)

3. List any advanced or special program, courses or summer courses you have taken. List the most recent course or program first.

Course or program	Name of School	Location (city and state)	Dates of attendance	Hours per Week

4. Name of University _____

City _____ State _____

5. What course of study (major) will you pursue?

1st _____ 2nd _____

6. Have you made any career decisions related to agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines?

Yes No If yes, explain: _____

7. Do you plan to go to graduate or professional school? _____ If yes, field of study _____

C. Activities

1. List activities (prioritize) in which you have participated in or outside your school (such as academic, publications, debating, dramatics, sports, music, art, student government, and clubs).

Activity	Dates of Participation	Offices held	Special Awards, honors or recognition

Section II (Student)

2. List volunteer services and jobs you have held in the past 4 years (including summer employment).

Volunteer Services or jobs	Name of employer or organization	Dates of service or employment	Hours per week	Special awards

Note: Be concise. Limit your answers to the space provided.

D. Leisure Time Activities

1. What is the most stimulating book or article (other than those for school assignments) you have read in the last 6 months? Why did you find it stimulating?

2. What do you do for relaxation and fun?

3. Describe your leadership role in activities in both your school and community.

Please describe any characteristics of yourself or your family that have been important to your personal development.

C. Candidate's Self Assessment

1. Describe a recent experience that has given you a sense of satisfaction or pride. Explain why you were satisfied or proud.

2. Briefly discuss why you want to study agricultural, food, natural resource sciences, or another related discipline in college.

USDA/1890 National Scholars application check list

SECTION I.	I have read this section, especially those elements detailing the eligibility requirements, schools that I must attend, and the February 1, 2008 deadline in which all application materials must be postmarked.
SECTION II.	I have read and filled out Section II, Student Self-Assessment section. I understand Section II must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2008 in order to meet the eligibility requirements.
SECTION III.	I have given Section III to my counselor/teacher to fill out. I understand this section must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2008 . Further, I have explained to my counselor/teacher the need to have all official transcripts enclosed with this response and sent to the institution's USDA Liaison Officer where I have selected to attend.
SECTION III.	I have applied for admission to each 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institution of interest.

Please review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proofread your responses.

I certify that I completed this application and that all statements made are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. (A false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.)

Signature _____ Date _____

This form must be returned to each 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institution(s) of your choice.
MUST BE POSTMARKED BY February 1, 2008

USDA/1890 National Scholars application check list

SECTION I. I have read this section, especially those elements detailing the eligibility requirements, schools that I must attend, and the **February 1, 2008** deadline in which all applications materials must be postmarked.

SECTION II. I have read and filled out Section II, Student Self-Assessment section. I understand Section II must be postmarked no later than **February 1, 2008**, in order to meet the eligibility requirements.

SECTION III. I have given Section III to my counselor/teacher to fill out. I understand this section must be post marked no later than **February 1, 2008** . Further, I have explained to my counselor/teacher the need to have all transcripts enclosed with this response and sent to the college/university's USDA Liaison Officer's office, I have selected to attend.

1890 Institutions

USDA Liaison Officer
Alabama A&M University School of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
Room 300, Dawson Bldg. or P.O. Box 1477
Normal, AL 35762

USDA Liaison Officer
Prairie View A&M University
P.O. Box 2736,
Prairie View, TX 77446-2736

USDA Liaison Officer
Alcorn State University
1000 ASU Drive, #1139
104 Agriculture Science Bldg.
Lorman, MS 39096

USDA Liaison Officer
South Carolina State University P.O. Box 7246
Orangeburg, SC 29117-0001

USDA Liaison Officer
Delaware State University
Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources
1200 N. Dupont Highway
Dover, DE 19901

USDA Liaison Officer
Southern University
P.O. Box 54051
Baton Rouge, LA 70892

USDA Liaison Officer
Florida A&M University
P.O. Box 338
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100

USDA Liaison Officer
Tennessee State University
3500 John Merritt Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

USDA Liaison Officer
Fort Valley State University
Agricultural Research Station
1005 State College Drive
Fort Valley, GA 31030-3298

USDA Liaison Officer
Tuskegee University
College of Ag., Environ. & Natural Sciences
Campbell Hall, Room 103
Tuskegee, AL 36088

USDA Liaison Officer
Kentucky State University
Cooperative Extn Bldg., Rm 227
400 East Main St
Frankfort, KY 40601

USDA Liaison Officer
University of Arkansas Pine-Bluff
P.O. Box 4806, UAPB
1200 North University
Pine Bluff, AR 71601-2799

USDA Liaison Officer
Langston University
School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Men's Bldg., Rm 101 South
Langston, OK 73050

USDA Liaison Officer
University of Maryland-Eastern Shore
Hazel Hall
Princess Anne, MD 21853

USDA Liaison Officer
Lincoln University
111 Allen Hall
820 Chestnut Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101-0029

USDA Liaison Officer
Virginia State University
Cooperative Bldg, Rm 204
P.O. Box 9081
Petersburg, VA 23806

USDA Liaison Officer
North Carolina A&T State University
107 B.C. Webb Hall
Greensboro, NC 27411

USDA Liaison Officer
West Virginia State University
302 Curtis Complex
P.O. Box 1000
Institute, WV - 25112 -1000

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Secondary School Report

Legal name in full (Please print.) _____

Please type or print using Black ink

Last

First

Middle

To comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a school must obtain signed authorization before it can release student information for use in this scholarship program.

Permission is hereby given to school officials to release school record and other requested information for consideration in the scholarship program named above.

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Parent's/Legal guardian's signature _____ Date _____

If you have attended this school less than 2 years, you may copy this form and ask someone from your former school to also complete a copy for you.

School _____

Name

City

State

Zip code

Telephone Number

Sections III and IV of this report should be completed and signed by the counselor and teacher.

Note for the counselor:

The student named above is a candidate for the honor of United States Department of Agriculture/1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions National Scholars Program. To process this application, we need the following: a carefully considered character and ability assessment by a teacher who knows the student well, a summary of teachers' judgements of the student, and an **official transcript** of the **student's secondary school record**. Thorough responses will greatly enhance your student's candidacy. This information will be used only in connection with the selection of Scholars and will be seen only by qualified persons involved in the selection process.

This form must be returned POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN February 1, 2008

Section III (Counselor)

A.

Name of Counselor _____

Please type or print using Black ink

Last

First

Middle

B.

Are you confident that the student will receive a high school diploma during the current academic year?

Yes No

If no, please explain. _____

C.

Students Class Rank _____ How many students in the class _____

D.

Student's cumulative grade point average _____

E.

ACT Composite Score _____ SAT Combined Score _____

F.

Secondary School Record

The student's SAT and/or ACT scores, along with an official secondary school transcript (with seal and signature), including grades 9 through 12 must be attached. If the official transcript is not provided, the candidate will not be considered for the scholarship.

Counselor's signature _____ Date _____

This form and the candidate's transcript must be returned to each 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institution of interest. (See address list.) **MUST BE POSTMARKED BY February 1, 2008** .

1890 Institutions

USDA Liaison Officer
Alabama A&M University School of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
Room 300, Dawson Bldg. or P.O. Box 1477
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Prairie View A&M University
P.O. Box 2736,
Prairie View, TX 77446-2736

USDA Liaison Officer
Alcorn State University
1000 ASU Drive, #1139
104 Agriculture Science Bldg.
Lorman, MS 39096

USDA Liaison Officer
South Carolina State University P.O. Box 7246
Orangeburg, SC 29117-0001

USDA Liaison Officer
Delaware State University
Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources
1200 N. Dupont Highway
Dover, DE 19901

USDA Liaison Officer
Southern University
P.O. Box 54051
Baton Rouge, LA 70892

USDA Liaison Officer
Florida A&M University
P.O. Box 338
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100

USDA Liaison Officer
Tennessee State University
3500 John Merritt Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

USDA Liaison Officer
Fort Valley State University
Agricultural Research Station
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Fort Valley, GA 31030-3298

USDA Liaison Officer
Tuskegee University
College of Ag., Environ. & Natural Sciences
Campbell Hall, Room 103
Tuskegee, AL 36088

USDA Liaison Officer
Kentucky State University
Cooperative Extn Bldg., Rm 227
400 East Main St
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USDA Liaison Officer
University of Arkansas Pine-Bluff
P.O. Box 4806, UAPB
1200 North University
Pine Bluff, AR 71601-2799

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Lincoln University
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P.O. Box 9081
Petersburg, VA 23806

USDA Liaison Officer
North Carolina A&T State University
107 B.C. Webb Hall
Greensboro, NC 27411

USDA Liaison Officer
West Virginia State University
302 Curtis Complex
P.O. Box 1000
Institute, WV - 25112 -1000

Section IV (Teacher)

A .

Name of Teacher _____

Please type or print using Black ink

Last

First

Middle

B .

Length of Relationship _____

C .

Considering this student's interests, work habits, and life goals, what is your assessment of the chances that the student will be motivated to take advantage of the opportunities available in college? Please give reasons for your assessment.

D .

What special features are a part of your school's curriculum (e.g., AP and honors courses, college study, independent study)?

Has the student taken advantage of the most challenging opportunities your school has to offer?

E .

Describe this student's strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

F.

Has the student shown exceptional talent or originality in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences and/or other related disciplines?

Yes No Please explain:

G.

Sometimes special circumstances should be considered when evaluating a student's achievement records and test scores. If, in your opinion, this student may have been disadvantaged by any such circumstances, please specify.

Section IV (Teacher)

A.

In the spaces below, please summarize comments made by teachers about the student:

1. Participation in discussion

- always involved, often initiates discussion
- occasionally participates
- seldom participates
- not applicable

2. Involvement in classroom activities

- active, usually shows genuine interest
- mild, politely attentive
- languid, attention often wanders
- vacillates greatly
- poor understanding

4. Pursuit of independent study

- considerable study and major project(s)
- some study and minor project(s)
- no evidence of independent study
- not applicable

5. Evenness of performance

- even, varies no more than one mark
- slightly uneven, often varies one mark
- uneven, often varies two marks
- erratic, performance fluctuates greatly
- inadequate opportunity to observe

6. Depth of understanding

- excellent insight
- good understanding
- some insight
- little insight
- not applicable

7. Personal responsibility

- always accepts fully
- usually accepts fully
- sometimes refuses
- often refuses

8. Consideration for others

- always considerate of others' rights and feelings
- usually considerate
- sometimes inconsiderate
- often inconsiderate

9. Population of the community in which your school is located

- less than 500
- 500 - 1,500
- 1,500 - 5,000
- 5,000 - 25,000
- 25,000 - 100,000
- over 100,000

10. What economic or social conditions characterize your community and most of the parents of the children in your school.

- rural farming area
- industrial small town or city
- large, metropolitan area
- other

Teacher's signature _____ Date _____

This form and the candidate's transcript must be returned to each 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institution of interest.

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