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ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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2018 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest Entry Deadline Extended to September 21

Little Rock, Ark. – The deadline for schools to apply for the fifth annual Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest sponsored by the Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD) and Farm Credit has been extended to September 21. Entry forms are available at <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/aad-grants>. Applicants may be any Arkansas school, grades pre-K through 12, that had a school garden open during the 2017-2018 school year, or any schools planning to start a garden in the 2018-2019 school year.

Entries will be judged by a committee amid categories below. All school applicants except those applying for the school garden start up category will be required to provide photos or video documentation of garden activities and progress.

Farm Credit is generously providing funding for winners in the following award categories:

- Best School Garden Start-Up Proposal - \$500
- Best Nutrition Education Based Garden - \$500
- Best Community Collaboration Garden - \$500
- Best Environmental Education Focused Garden - \$500
- Overall Winning Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year - \$1,000

The Arkansas Grown program promotes food and products grown in Arkansas by Arkansas producers, and helps make the connection between growers and buyers. Arkansas Grown is a program of the Arkansas Agriculture Department. Find producers, farmer's markets, and other local fresh food resources at www.arkansasgrown.org.

With approximately \$3.2 billion in assets, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Delta Agricultural Credit Association, Farm Credit Midsouth, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas support rural communities and agriculture across Arkansas with reliable, consistent credit and financial services today and tomorrow. The four Farm Credit associations in Arkansas are owned by the more than 10,800 customers. Through the cooperative structure, customer-owners have a voice and vote in the associations' governance and share in their cooperatives' financial success through cooperative returns, which total more than \$184 million since 1997.

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The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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