



# Illinois 4-H Sustaining the Future Award

2020-2021 Application

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this award is to recognize 4-H members who have exemplified outstanding leadership within the agricultural industry and a desire to remain engaged. Relevant topic areas within agriculture include but are not limited to:

agribusiness, aquaculture, crop production, renewable energy, environment, food science, food systems, greenhouses, hydroponics, landscape architecture, livestock, plant science, processing & retailing, soil science, urban agriculture, urban planning

## ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be enrolled 4-H members who are at least 17 years of age by September 1 and cannot have reached their 19th birthday by September 1 of the year they submit the application. An individual may only receive this award once.

*NOTE: Winners of the 2019-2020 Leadership, Citizenship, and Professionalism Award are not eligible to receive this award.*

## AWARD

The top 10 applicants will be recognized with the Illinois 4-H Sustaining the Future Award, which will be presented at the Illinois 4-H Celebrating Excellence Award Program. Award recipients will also be invited to attend the Premier 20 Leadership Conference.

*NOTE: Once an applicant has attended the Premier 20 Leadership Conference through the Illinois 4-H Program or the Illinois Association FFA, they are ineligible to participate in the conference again. They are however, if not a previous winner, eligible to apply for the 4-H Sustaining the Future Award.*

## APPLICATION

A complete application package must be submitted to be eligible for consideration of this award. A complete application package includes the completion of:

Section I: Applicant Information

Section II: Intent to Attend

Section III: Involvement

Section IV: Essays (400 words or less for each)

1. How has your involvement in 4-H prepared you to be an effective leader?
2. What leadership qualities are you striving to master?
3. How do you plan to be a leader in sustaining the future of agriculture?

Section V: Certification Signatures

Section VI: Reference Evaluations (3)

1. University of Illinois Extension staff OR 4-H volunteer
2. School instructor/administrator OR community leader
3. Peer from the 4-H program

**Deadline to apply is November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020!**

## SELECTIONS

The selection committee will consist of members from the Illinois Farm Bureau and Affiliates Youth Education in Agriculture Committee. Award recipients will be contacted by March 1 via email.

## SPONSORS

This program is sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau and Affiliates Youth Education in Agriculture Committee in cooperation with the Illinois 4-H Program. The Youth Education in Agriculture Committee is comprised of Illinois Farm Bureau®, COUNTRY® Financial, GROWMARK, Inc., Prairie Farms Dairy, and IAA Credit Union.



Questions? Contact Illinois Farm Bureau at [youth@iffb.org](mailto:youth@iffb.org)

# PREMIER 20

## Premier 20 Leadership Conference

April 21 - 22, 2021 at the Illinois Farm Bureau in Bloomington, IL

Through two days, attendees will participate in a series of sessions diving deep in to their:

***Leadership Potential • Communication Skills • Cooperative Abilities***

Premier 20 Leadership Conference is an elite youth leadership and professional development opportunity uniting 20 exemplary youth in agriculture from 4-H and FFA. The 10 4-H Sustaining the Future Award recipients and Top 10 FFA Section Presidents will be invited to attend.



“ I wish I could go back! It made me more aware of what it truly means to be inclusive to all leadership styles, personalities, and physical abilities.”

– ***Taylor Hartke, Effingham County***

“ The Premier 20 Conference prepared me for the future by opening my mind to better recognize the strengths in people’s differences. The smaller group of students allows you to really connect and make new friends while advancing your leadership skills!”

– ***Seth Mitchell, Richland County***



This opportunity to further cultivate the leadership and professional abilities of outstanding youth in Illinois agriculture is made possible by Illinois Farm Bureau and Affiliates Youth Education in Agriculture Committee.