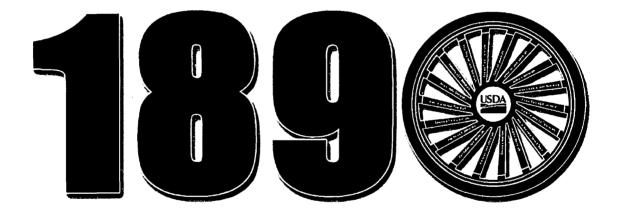
United States Department of Agriculture

## USDA/1890 National Scholars Program 2019 HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION



#### INTRODUCTION

OMB No.: 0503-0015

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1890 National Scholars Program. The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 as part of the partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.

The goal of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and other related disciplines. The program is open to high school seniors, rising college sophomores, and juniors who exhibit exemplary leadership traits and demonstrated community service. The Scholarship is highly competitive and provides for full tuition payment, among other benefits, for up to 4-years to selected students enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an 1890 Land-Grant University. The 1890 National Scholars Program partners with USDA agencies and staff of fices to provide scholars with professional and educational opportunities. A sponsoring Agency Coordinator will be assigned to the scholar. The program Agency Coordinator will be the primary point of contact of scholar. The Sponsoring Agency will work closely with scholars to provide ongoing support and ensure the Scholar is on track with degree requirements.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is implemented under the USDA Fellows Experience Program (FEP). Scholars accepted into the program will be appointed using the Schedule A(r) authority (5 CFR 213.3202) and are not eligible for noncompetitive conversion to full time employment upon graduation. However, all USDA/1890 National Scholars are required to compete for appropriate employment immediately after graduation. If selected, commit to at least one year of service to USDA for each year of financial assistance provided. <sup>1</sup>

#### The USDA/1890 National Scholar is required to:

- ✓ Compete for appropriate employment immediately after graduation. If selected, commit to at least one year of service to USDA for each year of financial assistance provided.
- ✓ Reimburse the USDA Sponsoring Agency for costs of education (excluding the employee's pay and allowances) incurred by the USDA Sponsoring Agency, if the Scholar voluntarily separates from the service of the USDA Sponsoring Agency before the end of the period for which the Scholar has agreed to continue in the service of USDA.
- ✓ Consult with and obtain the approval of the Sponsoring Agency prior to making any changes to their academic program. Unapproved changes may affect the Scholar's continued participation in the program, such as scholar's participation in study abroad programs, third party internships and leave of absence. The Scholar is expected to meet with Agency Coordinator to go over degree classes and ongoing academic status.
- ✓ The Scholar must coordinate summer work experience through their work site manager. The Scholar must report to work site and have a record of their individual development plan.

Again, thank you for your interest in the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program and best wishes in your pursuit of academic excellence!

#### USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

#### **OVERVIEW**

The USDA/1890 National Program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. The program awards scholarships to students accepted to or attending one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or related academic discipline(s).

The Land-Grant Universities are as follows:

Alabama A&M University
Alcorn State University (Mississippi)
Central State University (Ohio)
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 A&M 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

#### **AUTHORITIES**

- Legislative Authority of the Second Morrill Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321–326 and 328);
- National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–113, 1402, et seq 7 U.S.C. § 3101);
- Office of Personnel Management, Training (5 C.F.R part 410);
- Schedule A (r) federal Experience Authority (5 C.F.R. 213.312 ((r));
- Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR ACT), Title IX, Section 922 (7 U.S.C § 2279c);
- Executive Order 13779, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, signed February 18, 2017 continued by Executive Order 13811, signed September 29 September 2017.

#### **PURPOSE**

The purposes of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program are:

- ✓ To strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.
- ✓ To promote increase cooperation among the parties in all areas of mutual interest.
- ✓ To improve USDA's outreach efforts within the communities served by 1890 Land-Grant Universities and USDA.
- To increase the number of students studying and pursuing careers in agriculture, food sciences, and natural resource science or other related disciplines.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities pursuing a bachelor's degree in any of the fields of study within agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines. Examples of required fields of study or related disciplines are:

Water Resource Management
Business Management
Agricultural Production and
Technology Agronomy or Crop
Agricultural Economics
Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics
Science
Animal Sciences/ Botany
Business Management
Farm and Range Management
Financial Management

Forestry and Related Sciences
Food Sciences/Technology
Home Economics/Nutrition
Horticulture
Natural Resources Management
Soil Conservation/Soil Science
Other related disciplines, (e.g., non-medical biological sciences, pre-veterinary medicine, computer sciences)

#### AWARD

Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities. Each award provides full tuition, as well as fees, books, and room and board, and is renewable each year for the term of the scholarship. The scholarship renewal is contingent upon satisfactory academic performance, summer work performance and academic progress toward the bachelor's degree.

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#### **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

#### Applicant must:

- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen
  - Intend to study agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or other related academic disciplines
  - Have a high school cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better(on a 4.0 scale)
  - Have been accepted for admission to an 1890 Land-Grant University
  - Have a combined verbal/math/written score of 1,080 or more on the SAT (note: 1,000 or more combined for those universities that only accept verbal/math score) or a composite score of 21 or more on the ACT
  - Demonstrate leadership and community service
  - Submit the most recent official transcript with the school seal and/or the signature of an authorized school official
  - Submit a 500–800 word essay on one of the listed topics. 1) My interest in working for USDA. 2) How I envision the scholarship will impact me personally and my future as a public servant. 3) My experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences and natural resource sciences.
  - Submit an original signed and dated application.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE

All application materials must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, April 30, 2019 and sent to the USDA/1890 Program Liaison at the university or universities selected by the applicant.

#### **SELECTION PROCESS**

If selected, the student will be contact by the sponsoring Agency Coordinator coordinator. The applicant will be given an opportunity to ask questions related to the agency, the job and Program expectations. Selected applicants should contact their Agency Coordinator with any unanswered questions or concerns related to agency, summer experience or academic requirements.

Applications Must Be Postmarked by April 30, 2019.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Only complete application packages submitted by Tuesday, April 30, 2019 will be considered. All application materials must be submitted in one application package. Complete application packages must include the following:

- . Signed and dates application including signature of parent of guardian, if the applicant is under the age of 18.
- . Completed Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form
- . Completed Biographical Questionnaire
- . Current resume
- . 500-800 word essay on one of the designated topics
- . High School Counselor's Assessment Report (see page 18) in a sealed envelope
- . High School Teacher's Assessment Report (see pages 20-24) in a sealed envelope

Applicants are responsible for obtaining the Assessment Reports of the High School Counselor (pages 18–19) and the High School Teacher (pages 20–24). These Assessment Reports should be in a sealed envelope and included with the application package. All application materials must have original signatures and seals/stamps.

Application materials containing photocopied signatures and transcripts will not be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship.

Applications Must Be Postmarked by Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

Note: The application may also be printed out and filled in by hand in black or blue ink only.

#### PRIVACY ACT ADVISORY STATEMENT

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 this Act, please be advised:

- 1. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.
- 2. The data will be used for selection of 1890 National Program, printing certificates, and related activities.
- 3. The data is maintained in a privacy act system as defined by National Archives and Records Administration under OMB.
- 4. 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
T	Information, understand that I am a candidate for the honor of USDA/1890 National
1	Program, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am named a 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 1890 Land-Grant Universities as deemed appropriate for purposes of the 1890 National Program.
	I further consent to the release of photographs that 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 are made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.
	Printed Name: ————————————————————————————————————
	Signature:
	Date_:

#### 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.

program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see them in the course of their duties.						
(Please Print)						

#### A. Biographical Information Full Legal Name: **First** Middle Last Gender: Female Other Male Age: Zip Code Street City/Town State Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_(Cell)\_ Are you a U.S. Citizen? (select one) Yes No **Email Address:** B. Education 1. Name of High School currently attending: **Street Address:** City/Town State Zip Code Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_ GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) ACT: Composite Score \_ SAT:Math \_\_\_\_\_ Verbal \_\_ Combined SAT:

Note: Grade point averages and standardized test scores should match supporting documentation submitted by counselor. Only applicants meeting minimum GPA criteria and standardized test scores will be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship. Do not submit an application if you do not meet these criteria.

2.	List any other schools you attended in the last 4 years, starting with the one you attended
	most recently.

Name of School	Address	Dates of Attendance

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	Address	Dates of Attendance	Hours Per Week

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4	Name(s) of the	1890 University (or	· I Iniversities) to	which you are	annlying:
4.	Mairie(s) of the	1690 Officersity (Of	Omversities) to	willen you are	, apprymig.

a.				٠				
b.								

5.	If accepted at multiple 1890 Land-Grant Universities, please list in order of preference (i.e.
	1=Most Preferred, 3=Least Preferred)
	1
	2
	3
	Note: Applicants applying to more than one 1890 Land-Grant University must submit separate 1890 National Program applications for each university.
6.	What course of study (major) will you pursue?
	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice:
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice:
	Other Related Discipline/Unlisted Major (Please Identify):
	Note: All academic disciplines may not be available at every 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant University. Check the University's academic offerings before applying.
	7. Have you made career decisions related to agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences or related disciplines?
	Yes No If yes, please explain in the space below:

#### C. Activities

1. List extra curricular activities in which you have participated in school or in the community i.e. academic activities such as 4-H, FFA, debate, sports, music, art, etc).

Participation Dates	Office(s) Held	Special Award(s)
	Participation Dates	Participation Dates Office(s) Held

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

Volunteer or paid positions	Organization/ Employer	Dates of service or employment	Hours per week	Special award(s)

#### D. Candidates Self-Assessment

DI. Please list your hobbies and how each plays a role in your personal development.

D2.Describe activities in which you had a leadership role in your school or in your community.

D3. Describe a recent experience that has given you a sense of satisfaction or pride.

D4. Briefly discuss why have you chosen to study agricultural, or a related discipline.

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responses.
I certify that I completed this application and that all statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.
Print Name (Applicant)
Applicant's Signature
Date
Print name (Parent or Legal Guardian)  Note: If the applicant is a minor child, under the age of 18; parental or legal guardian signature is required
Parent or Legal Guardian Signature
Date
This form and all other application materials must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

Review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proof read your

How did you hear about the 1890 National Program Scholars apply.)	hip? (Select all that
College fair (s) Name of event(s)	
Informational Session Location	
Public Service Announcement Stations	
Direct Mail/e-mail Source of communication	
USDA Employee Name of employee(s)	
Church or place of worship Name of Facility	
Website(s) Name of website(s)	
Other	

#### INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The above-named student is a candidate for the honor of USDA/1890 National Program. To process this application, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University will need:

An official secondary school transcript, the SAT, and/or ACT scores. The transcripts from the student's secondary school record must contain a seal and signature of an authorized school official. Please note that only students with a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and a combined SAT score of at least 1080 or 1000 (math and verbal) or ACT score of at least 21 are eligible for the USDA/1890 National Program.

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.

Please delete all personally identifiable information, such as social security numbers and dates of birth from any supporting documentations.

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For questions or more information about the 1890 National Program, please contact us at 1890init@usda.gov or (202) 720-6350.

### USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP Applicant's Authorization to Release Academic Information.

Last	First	Middle	Suffix
authorization before it to school officials to re named above. Note: If required. Student's Signature Date Parent's or Legal Guard Date	ian's Signatureattended this school less than 2 ye	For use in this scholarship progra information for consideration i der the age of 17; parental or leg	am. Permission is hereby given n the scholarship program gal guardian signature is
School Name			
Address			

# USDA/1890 National Program Secondary School Report High School Guidance Counselor Assessment Report

A. Pleasetype or print usin	ng black ink		
Counselor Information:			
Last	First	MI	Suffix
Address:			
Phone:	,		
Yes No No If your answer is no, please exp C. Student's class rank	olain your reason using a sepa	rate page	
How many students are in	the class?		
Do not enter GPA on a scal		ted on 4.0 scale)	
E. ACT Composite Score			
SAT Score (combined)			
SAT Score (math and verb	oal)		

#### F. Secondary School Record

The applicant's SAT and/or ACT scores, along with an official secondary school transcript (with seal and signature by an authorized official), including grades 9 through 12 must be attached to this section of the application. If the official transcript and SAT and/or ACT scores are not provided, the applicant will not be considered for the scholarship.

Counselor's Signature_		

This form along with the candidate's official school transcript, SAT and/or ACT scores must be included in the application package. Applicants applying to more than one the designated schools must submit separate USDA/1890 National Scholars application packages for each school. The complete application package(s) must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

#### USDA/1890 National Program Secondary School Report School Teacher Assessment Report

The application for the USDA/1890 National program scholarship requires a carefully considered character and ability assessment by a teacher who knows the student well, including a summary of other teachers' judgments of the student.

A. Please type or print using black ink				
Last	First		Suffix	
Name of Teacher Address				
Phone				
B. Length of Relationship				
	s interests, work habits, and the student will be motivate college? Please give reason	d to take a dv	antage of the	

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D. What special features is a part of your school's curriculum (e.g., AP and honors courses, college study, and independent study)? Has the student taken advantage of the most challenging opportunities your school has to offer?
E. Has the student shown exceptional talent or originality in agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and/ or other related disciplines?  Yes No
Please explain your selection:
F. Describe this student's strengths and weaknesses.  Strengths:
Weaknesses:

achieve disadva	mes, special circumstances should be considered when evaluating a student's ement records and test scores. If in your opinion, this student may have been entaged by any such circumstances, please specify. *Additional pages may be ed if needed, please reference page 22 sub tangent G.
H. Indicat	e comments made by teachers about the student relative to the following:
	ticipation in discussion: always involved, often initiates discussion occasionally participates seldom participates not applicable
	olvement in classroom activities: active, usually shows genuine interest mild, politely attentive languid, attention often wanders vacillates gently poor understanding
3. Pur	suit of independent study:  considerable study and major project(s)  some study and minor projects(s)  no evidence of independent study  not applicable
4. Eve	nness of performance: even, varies no more than one mark slightly uneven uneven, often varies two marks erratic, fluctuates greatly inadequate opportunity to observe
5. Crit	cical and questioning attitude: often challenges occasionally probes rarely questions not applicable

6. Depth of understanding:      excellent insight     good understanding     some insight     little understanding     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
<ul> <li>10. What economic or social conditions characterize the community and most of the parents of the children in your school?</li> <li>Rural farming area</li> <li>Industrial</li> <li>Small town</li> <li>Large city, Metropolitan area</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>
Teacher's Signature
D.

This form and the candidate's transcript and SAT and/or ACT scores must be included in the student's application package. Applicants applying to more than one 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant University must submit separate USDA/1890 National Scholars application packages for each university. The complete application packages must be postmarked by **Tuesday**, April 30, 2019.

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#### USDA/1890 National Application Checklist

1.	I have read the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria.
2.	I am submitting an original application and transcript to each USDA/1890 University of interest (see addresses on page 26 of this application).
3.	I have applied for admission to each 1890 Historically Black Land- Grant Institution of interest.
4.	I completed the Candidate's Biographical Information section.
5.	I have included and signed the Secondary School Report from my high school counselor and explained the need to have all official transcripts with a seal.
6.	Signature and SAT and/or ACT scores are enclosed with this response.
7.	I have included and signed the School Teacher Assessment completed.
8.	I have signed and dated the application (original signature only). If under the age of 18 years old, parents or guardians have signed my application.
9.	I have enclosed a 500-800 word essay in one of the designated topics as outlined in page 5. 1) My interest in USDA 2) How I envision the scholarship will impact me and my future as a public servant, and 3) my experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences and natural resource sciences.
10.	I understand that the full application package must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, April 30, 2019 for consideration for the USDA/1890 Programs Scholarship.

#### 1890 Land-Grant Universities Liaison Directory

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Alabama A&M University Post Office Box 1087 Normal, AL 35762 (202) 570- 3926

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Alcorn State University 1000ASU Drive, Room 1139 104 Agriculture Science Building. Lorman, MS 39096 (202) 596-0478

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Central State University 1400 Brush Row Road McLin Building, Room 21 0 Wilberforce, OH 45384 (202) 596-0140

Attn: USDA/1 890 Program Liaison Delaware State University CARS Ag Annex, Room 1 08F Dover, DE 1991 (202) 308-7687

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Florida A&M University 1740 South Martin L. King Jr., Boulevard Room 217, S. Perry-Paige Building Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100 (202) 510-6301 Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Fort Valley State University 1005 State University Drive Pettigrew Center, Room 244 Fort Valley, GA 31030 (202) 253-4218

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension Facility, 400 East Main Street, Room 221 Frankfort, KY 40601 (202) 570-5202

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Langston University School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences 100 Success Drive, Room V115 Langston, OK 73050 (202)263-9209

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Lincoln University 818 Lee Drive I 08 Bennett Hall Jefferson City, MO 65101 (202) 264-0736

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison North Carolina A&T University 160 I East Market Street 107 B.C. Webb Hall Greensboro, NC 27411 (202) 281–8214

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Prairie View A&M University Agriculture and Business Building, Room 402 P. O. Box 2736 Prairie View, TX 77446 (202) 302-4712

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison South Carolina State University 300 College Avenue, N.E. P.O. Box 7246 Orangeburg, SC 29117 (202) 596-4442

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Southern University and A&M College Fisher Hall, Room 102 Baton Rouge, LA 70813 (202) 302-7255

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Tennessee State University 3500 John Merritt Boulevard Ag Science Dept., Room 20 P.O. Box 9629 Nashville, TN 37209-1561 (202) 596-0226 Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Tuskegee University College of Agriculture, Environmental and Nutritional Sciences Campbell Hall, Room 103 Tuskegee, AL 36088 (202) 306-9884

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison University of Arkansas Pine Bluff 1200 North University Drive Mail Slot: 4806 Pine Bluff, AR 71611-2799 (202) 306-9810

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison University of Maryland Eastern Shore 30665 Student Services Center Lane Trigg Hall, Room 113 7 Princess Anne, MD 21853 (202) 306-7368

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison Virginia State University P.O. Box 9081 1 Hayden Drive L. Douglas Wilder Building, Room 202C Petersburg, VA 23806 (202) 596-0301

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison West Virginia State University 100 Curtis House P.O. Box 1000 Institute, WV 25112-1 000 (202) 596-4605

For questions related to this application, please contact:

The Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement USDA/1890 National Program 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 0601 Washington, D.C. 20250

Telephone Number: (202) 720-6350

Fax Number: (202) 720-7704 Email: I 890init@usda.gov

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0503-0015. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 2.6 to 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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