



PRESS RELEASE -- For immediate release

Farm Foundation Issues New Funding Guidelines

OAK BROOK, IL Oct. 8, 2009: Farm Foundation, NFP, a section 501(c)(3) public charity, has issued new policies and guidelines for funding small grants.

Farm Foundation seeks proposals for small grants that stimulate new ideas and build networks of resources for agriculture, the food system and rural regions. The maximum grant award is \$10,000. Grant proposals should address one of the Foundation's six program areas:

- Energy and agriculture
- Food, agricultural and trade policy
- Agricultural and food system productivity, research and technology
- Agriculture in the environment
- Food quality, safety and consumer perception
- Viability of rural regions

In implementing a new strategic plan, Farm Foundation, NFP has realigned its program work into two categories—small grants and focused, staff-managed programs. “This realignment is designed to focus program resources to maximize impacts, while making the most effective use of our financial and human resources,” explained Farm Foundation President Neil Conklin.

Farm Foundation, NFP, works as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster a deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural regions. Farm Foundation's primary product is comprehensive, objective information on economic and public policy issues impacting agriculture, the food system and rural regions. Conferences, workshops and Foundation Forums are among the vehicles Foundation uses to bring stakeholders together to discuss evolving issues and options to address those issues.

Farm Foundation does not lobby or advocate on any political, policy, or other issue. Farm Foundation has a 76-year commitment to objectivity. Any small grant projects funded by Farm Foundation must be non-advocacy in nature, and provide balanced, objective information.

Through the funding of small grants, Farm Foundation seeks to support activities that are national or broadly regional in scope. Such grants should help to develop, disseminate and/or publicly present educational materials or scientific research findings which contribute to informed discussions and foster debate, bringing together all stakeholders to foster deeper understanding of issues affecting agriculture, food systems and rural regions. Examples of potential grant activities include workshops or conferences, support of professional meetings, or objective education work centered on relevant public policy issues.

“The new guidelines provide more structure, allowing Farm Foundation to maximize its financial and human resources while continuing its tradition of promoting new ideas and building professional networks,” Conklin noted.

Small grant proposals will be reviewed twice a year. Applications received by Oct. 31 will have a response by Dec. 15. Applications received by April 30 will have a response by June 15. The guidelines and application form are posted on the Farm Foundation Web site, www.farmfoundation.org, under the *Our Work* icon.