



## 2026 Cultivator Program

**Applications Due:** Tuesday, November 11, 2025

**Notification of Selection:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025

**Cohort Size:** Eight

### Program Overview

Farm Foundation's Cultivator Program provides an exclusive opportunity for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students of agriculture to attend the January 2026 Farm Foundation Round Table in El Paso, Texas, January 14–16, 2026.

The Round Table is an invitational gathering of about 150 C-suite food and agriculture leaders who meet to discuss emerging issues in agribusiness, the food system, and rural communities.

January's meeting will focus on:

**Putting in the Groundwork:** *Envisioning the Future of U.S. Food and Ag Policy.*

*U.S. agriculture is at a pivotal moment, balancing long-term goals with near-term budget realities. Discussions will explore nutrition, sustainability, market opportunities, and regulatory shifts.*

### Who Should Apply

- Undergraduate or graduate students from land grant and other accredited collegiate ag programs
- Nominated by a dean or department head (*self-nominations not accepted*)
- Research should connect to or have implications for U.S. food and agriculture policy in ways that support the meeting's theme — interpretation can be broad, as long as applicants can relate their work to the policy conversation

### What Cultivators Will Do

- Attend Round Table meeting, including an orientation and Agriculture Tour Day
- Engage fully in all Round Table sessions and network with industry leaders, including an assigned Round Table Fellow who acts as a mentor for the meeting
- Present research: Deliver a 5–8 minute lunchtime talk and discuss research implications with participants throughout the meeting



- Build lasting professional connections across policy, research, and industry

## Support & Awards

- **Standard award:** Covers hotel and registration costs. The nominating college or university is responsible for flights, other travel, and incidentals.
- **1890 Land Grant opportunity:** Thanks to the SAPLINGS grant, up to two students from 1890 Land Grant Universities will receive full funding for travel, flights, hotel, and registration.

## Timeline

**Nomination deadline:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025

**Selection notifications:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025

**Program dates:** January 13–16, 2026

- Jan. 13: Orientation
- Jan. 14: Agricultural site tour & Round Table opening
- Jan. 15–16: Round Table sessions and student presentations

## How to Apply

Deans or department heads may submit nominations here:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/FarmFoundation/2026CultivatorProgramNominationForm>

**Questions?** Contact Chrissie Edgeworth, Program Manager -  
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*Farm Foundation is an accelerator of practical solutions for agriculture, building trust and understanding at the intersections of agriculture and society since 1933.*