

GERALD “JERRY” RYAN MEMORIAL AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP

The Gerald “Jerry” Ryan Agriculture Scholarship is offered by the Jerry Ryan family in his memory. Jerry was a DeWitt County farmer for many years. This agriculture scholarship will be awarded to a graduate of Clinton Community High School who has been active in FFA or has been accepted or is currently enrolled full-time in an undergraduate agriculture related program at an accredited junior college, college or university. The amount of the scholarship will be \$500, one or two scholarships may be awarded.

The scholarship recipient will be the person who is deemed most qualified by the scholarship committee. Selection will be based on information provided on the application forms, an official transcript, an essay, and recommendations. Applicants (including past recipients) may reapply for the scholarship for subsequent years.

Each applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in an agriculture related program during the 2024-2025 academic year
2. have achieved and must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.00 based on a 4.00 scale
3. submit all portions of the attached application, including a 500-word essay
4. request and submit an official college transcript (or high school transcript, if the applicant is just completing high school)
5. Request and submit two (2) letters of recommendation, only one of which may be provided by a current or recent teacher or school employee, and **one provided by a contact outside of the school district. Do not use relatives or CCEF board members.**

Submit the completed application packet in a sealed manila envelope with your name and the scholarship name to the Clinton Community Educational Foundation, care of the Clinton High School Guidance Department, or mail directly to the CCEF, P.O. Box 395, Clinton, IL 61727 by Tuesday March 31, 2026.

It is the responsibility of the recipient to verify enrollment in a college/university by submitting a class schedule or other documentation to the scholarship committee by August 1 of the year the scholarship is awarded. Scholarship payments will be made directly to the college/university at the beginning of the school year. The recipient must provide a proper address and account information to facilitate these payments.

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APPLICATION FORM

Name of Applicant _____

Names of Parents _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Are you currently enrolled in your last academic year at Clinton High School? Yes ____ No ____

High school(s) attended _____

Have you been accepted by or are you currently enrolled at a college or university? Yes ____ No ____

College or university _____

Location of college or university _____

Intended or current major _____

Expected date of graduation from college or university _____

I verify that I plan to continue my studies and that all information I have provided a part of this application is accurate.

Applicant Signature

Date

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Please summarize your participation in extracurricular activities, including any offices held, during the last three years.

Summarize your participation in non-school activities, including offices held during the last three years.

List any academic, agricultural, athletic, etc. awards or honors received during the last three years.

Describe any work experience you have had during the last three years.

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APPLICANT ESSAY

In an essay of approximately 500 words, describe the life experiences and/or people that have most influenced your decision to pursue a career in agriculture. How do you envision those influences impacting your future?

Please double space and use a legible font 12 pt. or larger. Sign and date below and attach the essay to the back of this form.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

APPLICANT NAME: _____

In your letter of recommendation, the writers should mention how long and under what circumstances they have known you. Please comment on the applicant's potential for the chosen career. Please instruct the writers to submit the letter in a sealed envelope. Include the two letters of recommendation with the rest of the application packet. Remember, request and submit two (2) letters of recommendation, only one of which may be provided by a current or recent teacher or school employee, and **one provided by a contact outside of the school district** (a family friend, church leader, coach of non-school related activity, previous employer, etc.). **Do not use relatives or CCEF board members.**

Reference Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

Signature/Date: _____

Applications due Tuesday March 31, 2026.