

# NIAA NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

## ADVANCED TRAINING FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE LEADERS

### OVERVIEW

The Advanced Training for Animal Agriculture Leaders is a new program developed by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture to empower animal agriculture leaders to positively affect the future of animal agriculture.

NIAA, with guidance from its members and stakeholders, designed this world-class leadership and experiential learning program to ensure today's leaders fully appreciate the depth and breadth of animal agriculture and its role in today's food system. The National Institute for Animal Agriculture believes creating advanced training to empower animal agriculture leaders is an important step in continuously improving and developing animal agriculture in the U.S. and around the world. NIAA is committed to creating a meaningful experience that builds on other agriculture leadership development programs. The intention is to provide the next level of development to further the engagement and growth of early to mid-career animal agriculture industry professionals.

### PROGRAM CURRICULUM

Leaders selected for the program will grow and develop through experiential learning. Programming is based on learning objectives developed by funding partners and NIAA leadership. The ultimate goal is to offer an engaging, dynamic curriculum with practical application that positions participants – leaders from the entire value chain – with advanced skills to lead animal agriculture into the future.

### CURRICULUM COMPONENTS

Experiential learning opportunities across the diverse animal agriculture value chain sectors will be incorporated within the following components:



#### CRITICAL THINKING

Seeking and critically evaluating information, and applying knowledge gained to make decisions and solve problems



#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Building capacity for self-knowledge, improving one's self, and understanding how to cultivate environments that allow others to be their best



#### CONNECTING AND RELATING SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Fostering effective internal and external relationships and engaging effectively with different audiences



#### OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Recognizing the variety of approaches to food system production and seeking leading practices across the value chain

In addition to the curriculum components, cohort members will be assigned a capstone project to work on throughout the 16-month Advanced Training for Animal Agriculture Leaders program, utilizing the expertise and areas of interest of sponsors and funders as the foundation for the project(s). The project(s) will serve as an applied learning experience for participants to put their learned skills into action, ending the program with sharing project outcomes in a final presentation at NIAA Annual Conference.



## QUALIFICATIONS

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Candidates must demonstrate leadership in the agriculture industry and be committed to advancing animal agriculture's role in today's food system. Applicants must also have a track record of leadership in local, regional or national organizations and/or their place of employment.

## EXPECTATIONS

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Cohort members are expected to actively participate in every session of the 16-month program. The five in-person seminars are approximately three days each, from February 2022 through April 2023. Virtual meetings or webinars (1-2 hours each) will be held between in-person sessions for additional programming and capstone project work time.

## INVESTMENT

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The value of the Advanced Training for Animal Agriculture Leaders program is estimated be over \$10,000 per participant. Due to the support of NIAA members and partners, participants' investment for the program is \$1,000. Payment schedule is as follows:

- A non-refundable deposit of \$250 is due after class membership notification, prior to April 1, 2022, with registration.
- The remaining balance of \$750 is due by August 1, 2022.

Accepted candidates are expected to actively participate in every session of the 16-month program. Hotel accommodations and transportation during each seminar are covered by NIAA. Cost of transportation to and from each seminar is the responsibility of the participant, as are incidental expenses.

## CANDIDATE SELECTION

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**Applications are due January 14, 2022.** The application link is available through a nominating organization. Contact Emily Lehning at [leadership@animalagriculture.org](mailto:leadership@animalagriculture.org) if you are interested in applying for the program and being connected with a nominating organization.

A selection committee will review applications and notify the selected candidates by January 21, 2021, of their invitation to participate in the program.

### About the cohort selection:

- Each cohort is composed of up to 20 individuals directly or indirectly involved in animal agriculture.
- Preference will be given to those who have been in their profession for three or more years, are in a role of influence within their organization(s), and have participated in previous leadership development programs.
- The cohort will represent a diverse range of professional experience, animal agriculture species of focus, field of study and/or expertise, private and public sector experience, gender, race, and ethnicity.

## PARTNERS

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