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.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

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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

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

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. Virtual meetings or webinars (1-2 hours each) will be held between in-person sessions for additional programming and capstone project work time.

INVESTMENT

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 $2,500. Investment for employees of NIAA Gold and Platinum partners selected for the program is complementary. Payment schedule is as follows:

• A non-refundable deposit of $500 is due after class membership notification, prior to April 1 with registration.
• The remaining balance of $2,000 is due August 1.

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

Applications are due November 1, 2022. The application link is available through a nominating organization. Contact Emily Lehning at 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 November 14, 2022, 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

www.animalagriculture.org/leadership-program