

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

ADVANCED TRAINING FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE LEADERS

OVERVIEW

The Advanced Training for Animal Agriculture Leaders is a 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. NIAA 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 that is co-designed in conjunction with cohort members. Programming is based on four curriculum components along with areas of interests and growth identified by cohort members. 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 will incorporate the following components:



PROGRAM CURRICULUM

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 & 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

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

In addition to the curriculum components, cohort members will be assigned a capstone project to work on throughout the 16-month 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 to put the learned skills into action, ending the program with sharing project outcomes in a final presentation at NIAA Annual Conference. The Program will consist of five in person sessions - three in conjunction with NIAA events and 2 stand alone sessions, including monthly seminars with discussions of current events from different sectors of the industry led by cohort members. Webinars with outside speakers will explore topics identified by the cohort group. The cohort will also investigate individual strengths using Clifton Strengths and discuss how to best utilize the identified strengths.

Cohort members are expected to actively participate in the sessions 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.

- Feb/March 2025
- April (NIAA Annual Conference) 2025
- Summer 2025
- November (Antibiotics Symposium) 2025
- April (NIAA Annual Conference) 2026

INVESTMENT

The value of the Advanced Training for Animal Agriculture Leaders program is estimated be more than \$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 cohort selection notification.
- The remaining balance of \$2,000 is due at a later date to be specified at the time of selection.

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

COHORT & CANDIDATE 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. A selection committee will review applications and notify the selected candidates with their invitation to participate in the program.

Candidates are selected after a nomination and application period. If you are interested in nominating a candidate or applying to the program, contact Jessie Wadle at Jessie.Wadle@animalagriculture.org.

PARTNERS

