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March 3, 2014

To: County Farm Bureau Presidents
County Farm Bureau Office Secretaries

Re: Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award

The Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award was approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting last week. Details of this award are included in information that follows. In short, it is a scholarship for a student of a Farm Bureau member family who is majoring in an agriculture program and has completed his or her sophomore year in college. The award is a maximum of \$20,000.

The Texas Farm Bureau Board of Directors has considered several options for remembrance of former TFB President S.M. True, Jr. since his passing in 2012. We are pleased to share with you the results of our deliberations.

We believe this agricultural scholar award is a fitting tribute to Mr. True. We urge you to promote this opportunity to the members in your county. We will promote the opportunity through our publications and through letters to colleges and universities with agriculture programs.

We are hoping to recognize our first recipient this year. However, you should note **applications are due by April 30, 2014**. Please help to kickoff this special award in your county.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Dierschke
President

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cc: Field Operations Staff



Texas Farm Bureau

S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award

Background:

S.M. True, Jr. (1923-2012) served as president of Texas Farm Bureau from 1982 to 1993. Mr. True was part of the "Greatest Generation" serving his country in World War II as a U.S. Navy fighter pilot. Following his distinguished military service, Mr. True began his farming career with his wife, Anna Jean, in Hale County near Plainview, Texas. He produced cotton, wheat, feed grains, and beef cattle and continued a keen interest in the farm and in agricultural issues until his death.

S.M. True, Jr. had a passion for improving the lives of his fellow farmers and ranchers. He worked tirelessly through several organizations, but most diligently through Farm Bureau. He had a knack for getting things done and believed that Farm Bureau was the organization that best represented agriculture because of its grassroots orientation.

Mr. True was an outstanding leader who inspired others to follow. He was a beacon of optimism for farmers and ranchers--always saying agriculture's best days are yet ahead. The TFB S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award is a tribute to his leadership, positive attitude, and spirit of optimism.

Summary of the Award:

The Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award will be presented annually to one recipient. The recipient will be a student enrolled in a four-year college or university that is (or will be upon receipt of the award) classified as a junior (at least 60 hours of credit completed) and is majoring (or about to declare a major) in an agriculture program. To receive the full amount of the scholarship, the scholar award recipient must continue to major in agriculture and maintain a grade point average similar to that held at the time of winning the award.

Amount of the Award:

The total amount of the award is \$20,000 payable in \$5,000 increments for each semester of the scholar's junior and senior year. The award will be paid directly to the college or university unless there are special circumstances. The Texas Farm Bureau President will rule on any special circumstance requests.

Qualifications:

Scholar award applicants must:

1. Be a member of a Farm Bureau family with continuous membership for at least 3 years at the time of application;
2. Provide two letters of recommendation:
 - a. from the county Farm Bureau president from the applicant's membership county, and
 - b. from the dean or head of the agriculture program department of the applicant's college or university;
3. Be enrolled, or about to enroll, in an agriculture program major, provide a copy of course work and grades to date of application, and provide a copy of the course work expected for major;
4. Complete an application and submit it to the TFB Waco office not later than April 30 of the scholarship selection year; and
5. Provide a copy of course work and grades prior to payment of each semester's award.

Selection Process:

Following receipt of each year's applications, a committee appointed by the Texas Farm Bureau President will review the applications and make a report and recommendation to the Board of Directors at the regular May meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the selection.



Texas Farm Bureau

S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Application

Name of Student: _____

Family Membership Number: _____

County: _____

Address for Scholar Award mail purposes: _____

Name of College or University: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name of Agriculture program for which you are seeking a degree:

Attach the following to your application:

1. Letter of recommendation from your county Farm Bureau president
2. Letter of recommendation from the dean or head of the agriculture program of your college or university
3. Copies of your college transcript
4. Copy of the course work to complete the major
5. A summary of your past accomplishments and your goals for the future. Tell why you think you are deserving of the S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award.

Submit this application and supporting information **not later than April 30** to:

Mr. Si Cook
Director of Organization
Texas Farm Bureau
PO Box 2689
Waco, TX 76702