

For Immediate Release
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Compeer Financial Recipients of Ag Education & Classroom Equipment Grants *Minnesota Recipients*

Sun Prairie, Wis., (August 8, 2018) – As the 2018-2019 school year starts up shortly, sixty-six high schools in the Compeer Financial territory will have grants of up to \$3,000 to fund programs and equipment for their agriculture classrooms. The Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America, the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial, announces the award of \$150,000 through its Agriculture Education & Classroom Equipment Grant Program.

This grant program is designed to help fund agricultural education and classroom equipment in order that students have access to modern resources to broaden their perspective of the rapidly changing agricultural industry.

“The agriculture industry offers career choices that include not only the family farm, but well beyond,” said John Monson, Chair of the Fund’s Board of Trustees. “Hands-on learning and new technological opportunities are crucial in showing students the limitless opportunities within the agriculture industry. Schools are in the perfect position to broaden students understanding about the limitless opportunities they have within the agricultural industry.”

High school agriculture departments located within Compeer Financial’s 144-county territory were eligible to apply for an Agriculture Education & Classroom Equipment Grant.

The Minnesota organizations receiving grants this year include:

Belle Plaine Agriculture Education – to purchase a CNC Laser that would allow students to design, create and build projects.

Bethlehem Academy – to build and furnish a new greenhouse facility.

Buffalo High School Agriculture Department – to purchase equipment needed to maintain the school garden.

Central Public Schools – to purchase various tools and materials needed to build a storage shed for student use.

Fairmont Area Schools – to purchase laboratory equipment for students to actively participate in collecting and analyzing data.

Glencoe-Silver Lake Agricultural Education Department – to purchase tower gardens and seedling starter kits needed to utilize the gardens.

Holdingsford Agriculture Department – to acquire a new Ranger automatic parts washer cabinet with a built-in heater to improve cleaning of parts used in the shop.

Jackson County Central High School Ag – to purchase new textbooks and teacher materials to update the agricultural economics curriculum.

Kenyon Wanamingo High School Agriculture Department – to purchase new welders for student use.

Martin County West Agricultural Education Department – to update equipment used in food science classes.

Martin Luther High School – to construct a “Fish, Flora and Fuel for the Future Aquaponic Greenhouse,” which will be both a greenhouse and classroom space.

Medford Public School Agriculture Department – to renovate and replace existing tools that are no longer functional in the classroom.

Mountain Lake High School – to purchase a Pro-Star Heavy Duty Oxy-Acetylene kit for student use.

NRHEG High School – to purchase hydroponic towers that will be used by students in the classroom setting.

Owatonna High School Agriculture Department – to purchase Vernier laboratory equipment to be used for student laboratory testing and data collection.

Pierz Healy High School – to enhance the school garden, which will increase the amount of produce that can be grown and donated to the area’s senior citizen and foodshelf program.

Randolph Agriculture Department – to assist in the purchase of a tractor for student use as they manage a 40 acre farm.

Sleepy Eye Public Schools – to purchase equipment for student use, including sanders and a drone.

Stillwater Area High School – to purchase laboratory and veterinary science equipment for students to gain hands-on learning experiences.

About the Fund for Rural America

The Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America is the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial, structured to support Compeer Financial's mission to enrich agriculture and rural America. Compeer Financial's Board of Directors has dedicated one percent of annual net earnings to support the Fund's focus areas of education, youth engagement, rural development, community enrichment, agricultural advocacy and development, client development and team member giving. The fund is managed by a Board of Trustees, made up of team members from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois and members of the Compeer Financial Board of Directors. More information about opportunities available through the fund can be found at [Compeer.com/giving-back](https://compeer.com/giving-back).

About Compeer Financial

Compeer Financial is a member-owned Farm Credit cooperative serving and supporting agriculture and rural communities. The \$19.5 billion organization provides loans, leases, risk management and other financial services throughout 144 counties in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Based in the Upper Midwest, Compeer Financial exists to champion the hopes and dreams of rural America, while providing personalized service and expertise to clients and the agriculture industry.

Compeer Financial is the third largest cooperative of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of lending institutions supporting agriculture and rural communities with reliable, consistent credit and financial services. For more information about Compeer Financial, visit [Compeer.com](https://compeer.com).

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