

For Immediate Release
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Compeer Financial Recipients of Ag Education & Classroom Equipment Grants *Illinois 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 Illinois organizations receiving grants this year include:

Brimfield FFA – to purchase chicken eggs to hatch, raise and process to donate to the local food pantry.

Brown County High School Agriculture Department – to purchase a tunnel garden system to grow vegetables and flowers to be used in the school cafeteria, and a plasma cutter to be used in the agriculture mechanics lab.

Cambridge High School Agriculture Department – to purchase a miniature fish farm for hands-on learning opportunities.

Central High School – to upgrade computers, and purchase an incubator and Reality Works Cow model to facilitate hands-on learning opportunities.

Cuba Agricultural Education Department – to upgrade greenhouse facilities, which will include new tables, an irrigation system and a furnace.

Dakota Agriculture Department – to purchase beakers, an incubator, dissection trays, microscopes and scales for hands-on student learning opportunities.

El Paso-Gridley CUSD #11 – to upgrade shop facilities, including purchasing new tables, workbenches and desks, which will strengthen student learning opportunities.

Eureka High School CUSD #140 – to purchase new welding equipment to assist in hands-on learning opportunities.

Faith Lutheran High School – to build a hydroponics growing system that was designed by students, and to buy lab aid kits for classroom use.

Galva Ag Department – to purchase two 3D printer stations and filament consumables to assist in printing projects.

Kaneland High School – to purchase Vernier laboratory products to be used in classroom hands-on learning opportunities.

Knoxville High School – to purchase a 3D printer and the necessary filament consumables to print 3D items for student use.

Lena-Winslow FFA -- to purchase new lawn mowers for student use and hands-on learning.

Midland High School Agriculture – to add and enhance the equipment in the recently expanded greenhouse space.

Ottawa FFA – to purchase Vernier laboratory technology that can be used in lab work performed by students.

Prairie Central FFA – to update the greenhouse equipment and structure, which will enhance student hands-on learning opportunities.

Rockridge Community School District – to update the greenhouse facilities with new equipment.

Serena FFA – to develop and expand the Veterinary Technician and Animal Science curriculum.

Spoon River Valley FFA – to purchase greenhouse equipment to be used in the newly built greenhouse.

St. Anne Community High School – to purchase nine Vernier Labquest 2 Interface's which will be used in the CASE curriculum.

Streator Agricultural Department – to purchase a refrigerator, veterinary science equipment and shop tools, which will be used to expand current agricultural education courses.

Warren High School – to purchase laboratory equipment to facilitate hands-on learning opportunities.

West Prairie Agriculture Department – to re-tool the Food Science Lab with proper utensils for student use.

Williamsfield High School – to upgrade student shop facilities.

Putnam County Agriculture Department – to purchase diesel engines for student hands-on learning opportunities.

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

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Editor's Note:



