

JumpStart - FAQ

Who is eligible to receive funding through the JumpStart Program?

Eligible applicants are beginning farmers whose operations are headquartered in one of the counties served by Alabama Ag Credit. The individual must have started farming within the past two years or plan to start a farm business in the next year. You may be a full-time or part-time farmer. The map of our service territory can be [viewed here](#).

Who is considered a farmer?

For this program, we define a “farmer” as an individual who intentionally cultivates annual or perennial crops or animals for harvest. This funding opportunity does not include forestry products, nor does it support growing or raising products primarily for personal use.

I'm returning to my family farm. Do I qualify for this program?

If you received taxable income as a farm operator for more than two years, you do not meet the qualifications for this program. However, if you primarily worked as a farmhand and are starting a new venture, you would be eligible.

Do I need to own the land I'm farming or raising livestock on to be eligible for JumpStart?

No, however, for projects that involve on-the-ground improvements to farmland, we will request you show control of the land with a lease or other written agreement.

How are the funds paid?

Once winners are selected, a check for \$10,000 will be cut to the individual, and a W9 will be required. This will be reported to the IRS, and taxes will be due according to your individual tax requirements. Please consult with your tax professional.

How many times can I apply for JumpStart?

Those who receive a JumpStart are not eligible to receive a grant in a subsequent year. However, those that applied but were not awarded funds are encouraged to apply again. A project or farm that involves one or more individuals or farm families can only receive one grant per farmer/project/family.

What is required of me if selected as a participant?

As a selected participant, you will be required to participate in photos and video opportunities as requested by our communication team. We will have a press event where you will be recognized with the award.

Are there any restrictions on where I can use the grant funds?

Grant funds must be used for agricultural purposes to support your farm business. Fund use examples include tractors, equipment, livestock, seed, business planning, legal fees, or other farm expenses or startup costs.

Do I have to be an Alabama Ag Credit customer?

No

Whom can I contact if I still have questions?

You can contact Amber Pratt, VP, Marketing and Public Relations, at Amber.Pratt@AlabamaAgCredit.com, or by phone at 334-270-8687