

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***
 **Agriculture Future of America offers Scholarships for Students in Agriculture**

Agriculture Future of America (AFA) provides support to future leaders in agriculture from across the country in part through its AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship program and by supporting its partners in their efforts to provide scholarships for young people.

**Kansas City, MO** — Feb.7, 2012— As the cost of college tuition continues to rise, securing scholarship support becomes a top priority for students and parents. Agriculture Future of America (AFA) understands this need and works to assist young people pursuing agricultural-related careers by providing academic financial support and by partnering with other organizations to offer scholarship opportunities. Listed below are scholarship opportunities currently available through AFA and its partner organizations

**AFA National Leader and Academic Scholarships** - The AFA National Leader and Academic Scholarship program seeks to identify young leaders in the agriculture and food industry. This scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors enrolling in agriculture-related, four-year degree programs across the nation. Selection for the scholarship enables young leaders to enter AFA’s leader development program and receive an academic scholarship for their freshman year of college. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is March 15, 2012. For award details, eligibility criteria and to apply, visit: [www.agfuture.org/scholarships](http://www.agfuture.org/redirect.aspx?linkID=5651&eid=13311).

In 2012, [Water Street Solutions](http://www.agfuture.org/redirect.aspx?linkID=5650&eid=13311) will partner with AFA to provide five AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships to students from the following states: **Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska and Ohio.** These students will be identified through the general AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship application. High school seniors, as well as current college students, are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Three letters of recommendation are required for this scholarship. Students wishing to apply for this scholarship should fill out the general application for AFA National Leader and Academic Scholarships.

**William J. Collins Scholarship** - The William J. Collins scholarship was established to honor Mr. Collins upon his retirement from AgriBank, recognizing his many years of service. This scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors who are children of AgriBank district employees. Scholarship applicants must be planning to pursue a bachelor’s degree in an agriculture-related, four-year degree program, or have expressed intent to complete a four-year degree in the United States. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is March 15, 2012. For more information and to apply, visit: [www.agfuture.org/scholarships](http://www.agfuture.org/redirect.aspx?linkID=5649&eid=13311).

For questions about any of the scholarships listed above or to learn more about AFA, please contact Emily Page at (888) 472-4232, or emily.page@agfuture.org. AFA is also actively involved in assisting agriculture students with their efforts to find internships. Contact the AFA office if you would like assistance.
 **About AFA**

AFA’s mission is to create partnerships that identify, encourage and support outstanding college men and women who are preparing for careers in the agriculture and food industry. With student participation increasing 38 percent in the last five years, AFA leader development programs have impacted nearly 7,000 students from more than 115 universities in 42 states since its inception in 1996. AFA has awarded more than $6 million in academic and leader development scholarships. For more information about AFA, visit [www.agfuture.org](http://www.agfuture.org/redirect.aspx?linkID=5648&eid=13311) or contact Emily Page at emily.page@agfuture.org.

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