



# Springboard for Agricultural Youth

presented by

 Desjardins

## Program Rules

The **Fonds coopératif d'aide à la relève agricole (FCARA)** is a partnership between Desjardins, Sollio Cooperative Group and the *Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec (FRAQ)*. The FCARA received financial support from Desjardins to help young agricultural entrepreneurs establish their own farm business or take over an existing one via the Springboard for Agricultural Youth initiative.

## Program Details

The program aims to train, equip and financially support young entrepreneurs, including awarding 20 grants of \$15,000.

Recipients will be required to participate in a free training and networking program consisting of 5 meetings to take place in fall 2022, spring 2023 and fall 2023. The grants will be awarded in fall 2023.

## Eligible Candidates

**The program is open to any adult residing in the province of Quebec who:**

- is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident<sup>1</sup>
- is a member<sup>2</sup> of a Desjardins caisse in Quebec, the *Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec (FRAQ)* and the network of Sollio Cooperative Group at the time of their application and when receiving their grant
- is 40 years of age or younger on December 31, 2023
- holds a minimum of 20% of the shares in the farm business that they have been establishing or taking over for 5 years or less.

## Eligibility Criteria Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Refer to the Government of Canada website for the definition of Canadian citizen and permanent resident.
- <sup>2</sup> By definition, a Desjardins member is a person who holds a business account with Desjardins, a FRAQ member is a person who has duly paid their annual dues, and a member of the Sollio Cooperative Group network is a person who is a member of one of the cooperatives affiliated with the federation.

## How To Apply?

To apply, eligible candidates must complete the following steps:

1. To apply, eligible candidates must complete the following steps:
2. Write a letter (800 words maximum) summarizing their application, their company and what they would do with the \$15,000 grant and the new knowledge gained if their application is successful.

**Application deadline to submit your form:**

September 30, 2022, 23:59 p.m.

For any questions, contact: [andrea.renaud@sollio.coop](mailto:andrea.renaud@sollio.coop)

**Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:**

- Community involvement (professional, community, sports, etc.)
- Agro-environment commitment (good practices, innovative practices, etc.)
- Entrepreneurial vision
- Initial and continuing training
- Passions and other interests
- Type of project the candidate would use the grant for if successful

Each application will be reviewed by a jury composed of representatives from Desjardins, Sollio Cooperative Group and the FRAQ. A weighting will be applied for each criterion.

Once the jury has selected the recipients, the person in charge of the program will contact them to inform them of the next steps.

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A program supported by the  
**Fonds coopératif d'aide à la relève agricole,**  
in collaboration with :

