

+



AG **KINEKS**

AG KINEKS offers the KINEKS L.E.A.D (Livestock, Entrepreneurship, & Agriculture Development) Program to deserving individuals who express a 1) financial need and 2) a mentorship need from experienced mentors in the agricultural industry, to develop a successful first time large stock animal project. Candidates receive temporary funding for the purchase of one livestock animal project. This program design assists individuals demonstrating a financial need to successfully raise large stock.

KINEKS L.E.A.D ***Program***

2020-21 Application

KINEKS Foundation
www.kineks.org

KINEKS L.E.A.D Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The KINEKS L.E.A.D (Leadership, Entrepreneurship, & Agriculture Development) Program is a loan program primarily designed to assist first time large stock exhibitors with both knowledge and financial assistance in the initial stages of their animal project experience. The purpose of the program is to provide deserving individuals who have limited economic resources an opportunity to raise a large stock animal project and receive guidance from mentors with experience in the agricultural industry. In order to make this possible, candidates are provided temporary funding for the purchase of one large stock animal project. This program is designed to provide assistance to individuals who illustrate that they require financial assistance in order to successfully raise large stock.

Who qualifies to participate?

To qualify the student must be at least 12 years of age. This must be the applicant's ONLY large stock project. Preference is given to those who illustrate a financial need and have never raised large stock before. Family members of current KINEKS Board of Directors, Management, and Staff are not eligible to participate in this program. At this time, only applications for students seeking to raise swine, lamb, or goat projects will be accepted.

How can I get selected?

The applicant will need to complete the attached application, provide an essay detailing their need for assistance and their desire to participate; submit a statement of financial need; and provide three letters of recommendation. If they qualify, they will be required to do a personal interview. The KINEKS Board of Directors may also request an interview with the applicant's parent/legal guardian and/or their club leader. One or more committee members may request to do an onsite/virtual inspection of the area that is to be used to house the animal, if deemed necessary. Applicants may be asked to spend a day with KINEKS L.E.A.D Mentors and with the requested animal species to determine the current level of ability. Acceptance into the program will be at the sole discretion of the committee and management of the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program.

Does participation require additional work beyond what I would be required to do if I didn't accept the funding?

Yes. Accepted applicants will be expected to provide documentation of their project weekly through written

documentation and photographs. Accepted applicants will be asked to deliver a live "Wrap-Up" presentation at the end of the project, either virtually or in person, verbally describing their project in detail while also presenting a PowerPoint presentation designed by them, the student. At the end of this presentation, Board members will conduct an exit interview with the student and ask them questions regarding their presentation, experience, and what they learned. Additionally, weekly email updates, maintaining weekly animal weight logs, weekly AET record book updates, monthly (in-person or virtual) meetings with KINEKS L.E.A.D Mentors, and monthly FFA Advisor/Club Leader progress reports will be required of the student in order for them to remain in good standing with the L.E.A.D Program. The degree of completion of these tasks, in addition to completion of other required and encouraged events, will be tracked using a points system that is managed by the applicant's appointed mentor. Failure to complete certain tasks may result in the termination of the student's participation in the program, and result in a default on the animal project loan amount plus an additional fine.

What does it mean to have a mentor?

Each exhibitor will be assigned a minimum of one mentor, whose role is to answer questions and provide guidance for the student's specific project. The L.E.A.D Mentor will usually be a past exhibitor who has experience in showing the livestock species that the applicant is showing, and thus has seasoned advice and tips to share with the exhibitor. Inspired by the classic mentor-mentee relationships commonly found between senior and junior showmen, our mentors aim to provide the student with guidance and encouragement when they need it. The L.E.A.D mentor

is not intended to replace the student's club leader or advisor, but instead aims to provide additional support. As many past exhibitors would agree, raising a livestock project often takes a village, and our mentors are part of that village. While our mentors may not be in the ring with them, they hope to arm the students with the knowledge they need to be successful once they step in it. The mentor will also be the liaison between the student and the KINEKS Board of Directors and will report the progress of the student to the board and will inform the board if they are not complying with the program requirements. The mentors will meet with the exhibitor at the project site (or virtually) a minimum of once a month. Outside of those visits, it is required that the student maintain contact with their KINEKS L.E.A.D Mentor via weekly emails. In addition to being required, this can be a wonderful opportunity for the student to interact with their mentor. Your mentor is excited to help, and how much you gain from them is up to you; so don't miss out on all the information and experience that they have to offer!

How does the funding part of the program work?

The funding provided by the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program is provided as a loan to the student, and is expected to be paid back in full *in addition* to a 25% interest rate. The principal + interest will be taken from the student's check from the sale of their animal at their county fair. If for some reason the student is not able to sell their animal project at their county fair, the student will still be liable for paying back the amount loaned for the animal, plus the interest. At the end of the student's project, if the student has amassed enough points and the mentor recommends it, the Board of Directors has the ability to forgive in-whole or in-part, the principal loan amount, the interest, or both.

Once an exhibitor is accepted, the program will fund the following item:

- Cost of animal, at an amount that is approved by the KINEKS Board of Directors at their called Board meetings

The KINEKS L.E.A.D Program will NOT fund:

- Feed
- Equipment
- Shots, supplements, or veterinary costs

- Livestock show registration fees (for neither SAILA shows or their county fair)

After the program, the funds provided must be repaid to the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program through the sale of the animal at their county fair or Youth Livestock Auction. Applicant will be responsible for paying back the entire principal amount of the loan for the animal plus 25% interest.

Why does the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program want me to submit so much stuff, and why do I need to pay back the amount with interest?

The KINEKS Foundation is passionate about helping provide financial and mentorship resources to motivated students who don't have the financial means to raise animal projects. By requiring that accepted applicants submit weekly records/logs and perform presentations, we're trying to ensure that the student has good habits and is making the most of their experience. These required tasks would normally be done anyway, so as long as the student is being a responsible animal owner, it will be like getting credit for things they've already done, while learning some professional etiquette that will come in handy throughout their academic and professional careers.

The KINEKS L.E.A.D Program description does state that the funding provided by the program is a loan and needs to be paid back, but it also states that the amount of points the student has and their mentor's assessment of them at their project's end can qualify them for either a partial or full pardon of their loan and interest amount. What this means, is that the student has control over how much of their fair check gets to stay with them. If the student always submits their records on time, and if they are enthusiastic, inquisitive, driven, passionate, or demonstrate that they are committed to working hard, then all of this will be reflected in the board's decision when the project comes to term.

KINEKS L.E.A.D Program

EXHIBITOR CONTRACT

1. KINEKS L.E.A.D PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND MENTORSHIP AGREEMENT

This agreement made this _____ day of _____, 2020. **Applicant: Please Fill in the Date of Submission of this Application*

Between: The KINEKS L.E.A.D Program & _____ .

APPLICANT'S NAME, FIRST AND LAST

2. ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered eligible to participate in the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program, the applicant must:

- 2.1. Complete a KINEKS L.E.A.D Program application.
- 2.2. Have an area to house the animal.
- 2.3. Reside primarily in the state of Arizona.
- 2.4. Be eligible to show at your own county fair.
- 2.5. Be at least 12 years of age by the time of your county fair.
- 2.6. Not have any other large stock project.
- 2.7. Be seeking assistance in raising a swine, lamb, or goat project.
- 2.8. Adequately demonstrate financial need.

3. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to be considered for admission into this program, the applicant must:

- 3.1. Complete and submit a signed and dated KINEKS L.E.A.D Program Application.
- 3.2. Include three letters of recommendation from non-related adults familiar with you and your previous school or extracurricular volunteer, church, or club projects. (Examples: Student Council advisor, band director, Jr. ROTC leader, 4-H leader, FFA advisor, school or community leader, etc.)
- 3.3. Provide a written statement of financial and economic need.
- 3.4. Provide an essay, 500-1000 words in length, describing why you deserve to be selected and why, without this opportunity, you might not be able to participate in a project.
- 3.5. Along with their legal guardians and FFA Advisor/Club Leader, applicants must agree to the terms of the program and sign a program agreement.
- 3.6. Have their application notarized by a notary public.

4. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

If accepted into the program, a certain level of participation is required of the applicant in order to be considered “in good standing” with the KINEKS Foundation’s L.E.A.D Program. A student that is not “in good standing” may be in jeopardy of having their participation in the program revoked and find themselves liable for the animal project loan amount and its interest. If accepted, the applicant is aware that they must:

- 4.1. Agree to complete and perform the tasks specified in **Appendix A** to a satisfactory degree, or forfeit the loan amount and either the 25% interest owed or a \$250 fee, depending on the reason for participant’s termination in the program.
- 4.2. Agree that if an applicant chooses to discontinue the program once the animal is given to them, the applicant must return the animal and any monetary assistance in full to the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program, and pay a \$250 penalty fee.
- 4.3. Agree to complete and abide by the Quality Assurance Program, season pass, and vet inspections required for show.
- 4.4. Agree to follow all rules of exhibiting an animal at your fair or sanctioned show.
- 4.5. Agree to complete the project and sell the animal at a Youth Livestock Auction.
- 4.6. Agree to allow use of still and video images of the child and the project to be used for marketing, sponsorship and grant application purposes including Facebook and the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program website use.
- 4.7. Cover all feed, supplement, and vet care costs.
- 4.8. Understand that in the unfortunate event of the death of the student’s animal project, where the original breeder/animal supplier does not offer a replacement animal:
 - i. If the breeder/supplier is at fault (i.e. animal was sick when it left the supplier, there was an issue with their herd, etc.), the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program will offer the student the opportunity to provide the funding for the purchase of another animal project of the same species. However, the student will be required to pay back the loan amounts for BOTH animal projects, plus the 25% interest on both principal amounts.
 - a. Example: If the first animal was \$400 and the second animal was \$400, then the student agrees to pay the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program \$800 for the principal loan amount, plus 25% of that amount (\$200). The total (\$1,000) would be taken from the student’s fair check. If the student is unable to show and sell their project at their fair, they will still be responsible for paying back that amount.
 - ii. If the death of the animal is caused by exhibitor negligence, then KINEKS will not offer funding for a subsequent animal, and the exhibitor will still be responsible for paying back the loaned amount for the deceased animal, plus interest. The KINEKS Board of Directors will determine if the cause of death was due to exhibitor negligence, and by signing this document the exhibitor and his guardian agree to accept the ruling of the KINEKS Board.
 - a. Examples of Negligence: starvation, sun exposure/heat exhaustion, accidental consumption of a chemical, injury as a result of irresponsible or careless behavior, etc.

5. ASSUMPTIONS

- 5.1. The KINEKS L.E.A.D Program is not responsible for organizing transportation for the exhibitor to or from livestock shows.
- 5.2. The KINEKS L.E.A.D Program is not responsible for organizing breeders or animal suppliers for the student to purchase their animals from.
- 5.3. The exhibitor is responsible for completing all of the deadlines necessary to register for their county fair, and failure to successfully register for their fair or failure to make it to sale does not excuse the student from paying back the loan amount or its interest.

2020-2021 Application Deadline

To participate, interested individuals must submit an application and supporting documents postmarked no later than November 20th, 2020, addressed to the KINEKS Foundation Headquarters below:

KINEKS L.E.A.D Program
KINEKS Foundation
PO Box 1803
Litchfield, AZ 85395, USA

The board will not accept mailed applications received after this date or postmarked after November 20th.

If you have additional questions, contact the AG KINEKS L.E.A.D Program at the email address below, or visit the website at www.kineks.org/agkineks.

Contact: info@kineks.org

APPLICATIONS ARE JUDGED BY:

The KINEKS L.E.A.D Program committee members and management staff.

PROGRAM APPLICATION

Please answer all questions. The Committee will weigh heavily your answers to these questions. Please be detailed. You may attach additional sheets if necessary. Be sure to include the question with your additional information if you decide to use additional sheets. **Type or Print** your answers. **Do not write on the back of this application.** When submitting this application, print the entire document including the program description and exhibitor contract. Use a paperclip to secure your application. **Do not staple** the application. All information is subject to verification. Selectee's names will be released to the media. All decisions of the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program are final.

Include the following:

1. Application
2. Short answer question responses
3. Essay response
4. Three letters of recommendation (refer to section 3 of the exhibitor contract, ***Application Requirements***, line 3.2)
5. All signatures are required, including notarization
6. Application, responses, and essays must be typed or printed. Use additional paper if necessary.

Date of Application:					
Name of Applicant:					
Date of Birth:					
Telephone Number:					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip Code:	
Email Address:					
Name of School:					
Number of years, if any, you participated in a livestock show or fair:					
Species/Exhibits shown, if any:					
Species interested in showing:					
Club/FFA Chapter Name:					
Leader/Advisor Name:		Leader Phone Number:			

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

KINEKS L.E.A.D Program Application

1. Provide a description of the animal housing area intended for use, including a detailed description of the electrical and water sources available (attach minimum of two photos).

2. What other youth activities do you participate in? List them below and describe your level of involvement.

3. For what reasons do you want to raise a large stock animal project; what is motivating you to apply?

4. What resources, if any, are available to you to use in the raising of an animal project?

5. What are your future plans and goals?

6. What knowledge or background of agriculture do you have? Describe an encounter that introduced you to the field of agriculture.

7. Have any of your family members owned, or currently own, livestock? If yes, what animals do they have, and what species are they? If currently owned, where does the livestock reside? Explain.

KINEKS L.E.A.D Program Application

8. Do any of your family members have experience showing livestock? If yes, explain.

9. Provide a statement of financial need that describes your economic qualification for this program.

ESSAY RESPONSE

- 10. Essay:** Attach an essay, 500-1000 words in length, describing why you deserve to be selected, and why, without this opportunity, you might not be able to participate in a large stock animal project.

KINEKS L.E.A.D Program Application

ADVISOR AGREEMENT

I hereby attest that I have discussed raising a large animal project with the applicant and am aware of the agreement between the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program and the applicant.

Leader/Advisor Signature

Date

Signature of Witness

Date

Print Name

Print Name

STUDENT APPLICANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Applicant has executed this agreement as of the date indicated below and hereby certifies that all information provided is true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge. Furthermore, Applicant agrees to provide the right to Re-Claim Applicant's check from the appropriate entity where the animal project is sold in the amount of the principal loan for the price of the animal, plus 25% interest. If the applicant for any reason does not have a check from the sale of their animal, the applicant is still required to pay back the principal loan amount(s) plus the interest fee.

Applicants Signature

Date

**Parent/Guardian Signature
(If applicant is under 18)**

Date

Applicant's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Notary Signature

STATE OF _____)

COUNTY OF _____)

This instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____,

by_____.

NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE

APPENDIX A

KINEKS L.E.A.D Program Point System

Throughout the duration of the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program, the exhibitor's adherence to the program's requirements and expectations will be tracked using a point system. This system awards points to the exhibitor for completing certain tasks and events. These tasks and events are broken down into three main categories:

1. Events that are **REQUIRED**
2. Events that are **ENCOURAGED**
3. Tasks that are **EXPECTED**

These points will determine whether the KINEKS Board of Directors will forgive the principal loans or interest amounts owed by the exhibitor at the end of the project. A document which lists examples of tasks/events and the amount of points each would be worth, in addition to a sample rubric that the mentors would use when awarding points, will be provided to the student in their onboarding packet upon acceptance of their application to the program. Actual tasks and events, rubrics, and point values are subject to change.

Events that are **REQUIRED** are considered mandatory, and failure to complete them will result in the automatic and immediate termination of the exhibitor in the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program and will hold the exhibitor liable to pay back the entire amount loaned to the student, plus a \$250 fee. Required tasks include:

- Monthly meetings (in-person OR virtual) with their KINEKS Mentor.
- An end-of-project "Wrap-Up" oral review and PowerPoint presentation (in-person OR virtual) to KINEKS members and Board of Directors, followed by an exit-interview where KINEKS members ask the student questions regarding their experience, project, and presentation.

Events that are **ENCOURAGED** are not mandatory but are highly recommended by the mentorship staff for the student to complete. These events are usually designed to help the student improve their skills as a livestock showman and improve their performance at the student's county fair. Extra points will be awarded for these events if the exhibitor attends them, however, points will not be deducted if the exhibitor does not. An example of an **ENCOURAGED** task is the attendance of a SAILA livestock show.

Tasks that are **EXPECTED** include most of the tasks that are described in the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program description and application and are items that the KINEKS Mentors expect the students to fulfill. The degree to which the exhibitor completes these tasks will be assessed by the exhibitor's KINEKS Mentor, and a corresponding number of points will be awarded for that task. However, should the student fail to complete any combination of these expected tasks three times, their participation in the KINEKS L.E.A.D Program will be terminated, and they will be responsible for paying back the full purchase price of their animal project plus a \$250 fine. The first failure to complete will result in a written reminder sent to the student by their mentor, the second failure to complete will result in a written warning, and the third failure to complete will result in the termination of the student's participation in the program. **EXPECTED** tasks include:

- Weekly updated Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET) records (FFA students) or equivalent record book (4H students)
 - For students with AET accounts: the student will need to either A) provide their KINEKS Mentor with their AET login information so that they can log in and view their

- records at the end of each week, or B) print PDF copies of their records and email them to their KINEKS Mentor at the end of each week
- For students without AET accounts: the student will need to keep a record book/journal of their weekly activities. A sample weekly record entry can be provided after the student is accepted.
 - Weekly updated weigh-in sheets/logs
 - Tracking the weight of the animal after weighing each week
 - Weekly mentor check-in emails
 - A sample email that describes the required information and required professional format will be given in the student's onboarding packet
 - Weekly updated exercise logs
 - Walking/exercising animals regularly (i.e. a minimum of 30 minutes a day, 4 days per week)
 - Weekly updated feed logs
 - Tracking pounds of feed fed to animal, brand of feed, and protein percentage, etc.
 - Monthly Ag. Teacher/FFA Advisor Progress Reports
 - The KINEKS Mentor will attain these from the advisor directly, and then assign points for this entry based on the contents of the progress report
 - Attending and selling their animal at a county fair/youth livestock auction

This point system is intended to outline expectations for the student, the student's guardian(s), and the student's FFA Advisor/Club Leader. This system is meant to inform the student applicant of the responsibilities that come with the funding provided them by the KINEKS Foundation.