



Section	Policy No.	Page
ASB	1-2	1 of 4
Policy Title	Date:	Motion No.
Sponsorship to Agriculture Non-Profit Organizations	[Keywords]	[Category]

Purpose:

Kneehill County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is dedicated to advancing positive, fact-based agricultural education and promoting community engagement. In alignment with this mission, we have implemented the Support Grants to Non-Profit Organizations Policy. This policy aims to allocate financial assistance annually to eligible organizations offering services within Kneehill County. The ASB allocates a predetermined amount of money each year towards program-based initiatives. This support is intended to facilitate initiatives that directly benefit our residents and contribute to the ASB's strategic objectives.

Policy Statement:

This policy is intended to address grant requests from Agricultural-based Nonprofit Organizations. It and its associated procedure establish eligibility criteria and a process for receiving grant applications from Non-profit Organizations, as well as protocols for distributing grants and receiving reports that outline how funds have been expended within the initiative.

Policy Procedure/Guidelines:

1. Eligibility

1.1. Agricultural-based grants to Non-Profit Organizations shall be limited to organizations that:

- a) Have programs and resources that will be delivered and available in Kneehill County within one year of funding approval
- b) Are responsible for the financial operation of the program
- c) Have clear plans for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on program use and outcomes
- d) Focus on agricultural development and enhancement, farm health and safety, farm succession and business development, public outreach and education on agriculture, sustainable farming practices, environmental sustainability, food security, or related areas as approved by the ASB.

1.2. The following non-profit organizations, societies, or associations are eligible for funding under this policy:

- a) Who have society status for a minimum of 2 (two) years and be in good standing
- b) Who operate within Kneehill County



Section ASB	Policy No. 1-2	Page 2 of 4
Policy Title Sponsorship to Agriculture Non-Profit Organizations	Date: [Keywords]	Motion No. [Category]

- c) Who request sponsorships for agricultural based initiatives not covered by other Kneehill Count grants.
- d) Who are actively engaged in agricultural development and related areas.
- e) Who are seeking funding for initiatives that meet the strategic goals of the ASB.

1.3. The following are not eligible for funding under this policy:

- a) Municipalities
- b) For-profit businesses
- c) Individual persons
- d) Programs not aligned with funding objectives
- e) Religious institutions: however, we will consider agricultural initiatives that are non-denominational and are open to the community-at-large organizations
- f) Organizations with political affiliations
- g) Programs, events, and activities that have received funding from the County through another application

2. Funding Allotment & Allocation

- 2.1.** The sponsorship program amount and availability will be determined by the Agricultural Service Board during annual operational budget deliberations.
- 2.2.** Grants are limited to one per 12-month period for each applicant organization.
- 2.3.** Organizations can request to present to ASB, but it is not mandatory.
- 2.4.** The ASB may request additional information or clarification before approval of funds.

3. Sponsorship Application Process

- 3.1.** Organizations interested in applying for the grant must complete the official application form provided. This form requires detailed information about the organization, its programs and projects, how the initiatives align with the ASB’s strategic goals, and its benefits to Kneehill County residents and agriculture.
- 3.2.** Application forms are available through the Agriculture Services Department.
- 3.3.** Funding is disbursed annually upon receipt and review of applications, contingent upon availability until allocated funds are depleted.



Section ASB	Policy No. 1-2	Page 3 of 4
Policy Title Sponsorship to Agriculture Non-Profit Organizations	Date: [Keywords]	Motion No. [Category]

3.4. If the application form is not correctly filled out, the grant application will not be considered.

4. Review Process

4.1. A review committee comprising of the ASB will evaluate all applications based on the following criteria:

- a) Demonstrated the need for the program and how it aligns with the ASB's agricultural goals and strategic plan.
- b) The overall impact the programming will have on the community and how many residents will utilize the programs and resources.
- c) The need for financial assistance for the programming compared to other applicants.
- d) Amount and location of recognition displayed for the County's contribution.
- e) Past performance and experience working with Kneehill County, ASB and Ag Services.
- f) Final approval and amount received are designated to the ASB and not all applications may receive funding.

5. Funding Disbursement and Accountability

5.1. Applicants will be notified of the ASB's application approval and chosen amount.

5.2. Sponsorship funding will be approved in the total amount requested or not approved

5.3. Where sponsorship is approved, 100% of the awarded amount will be forwarded to the applicant.

5.4. A report including indicators of success such as the number of Kneehill County residents reached, or resources developed is required to be submitted to the ASB at the end of the term of sponsorship.

6. Application deadline

6.1. Applications will be accepted from January 1st to December 31st on a first-come first-serve basis.

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Reeve

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Section ASB	Policy No. 1-2	Page 4 of 4
Policy Title Sponsorship to Agriculture Non-Profit Organizations	Date: [Keywords]	Motion No. [Category]

Approved: [Keywords] [Category]

