Please find enclosed application form for Van Merchant Rural and Agriculture Grant forms. These may be copied or I may be contacted on the enclosed email address. This year we will be focusing on farm and agriculture related opportunities only, and also on financial need. This grant is not just for the straight A student, but to all who have the desire to build their life on a career in agriculture.

Sincerely, Deb Dietz 13416 W. Pinhook Rd. Lena, IL 61048 bddietz@outlook.com

Van Merchant Agriculture Grant Application

Deadline for submission: March 15, 2025

This grant is offered by the family in memory of Van Merchant. Van was a lifelong farmer. He farmed from childhood and took over the family farm when his father Harold Merchant passed in Van's early 20's. He asked to have this program set up to encourage young people to gain the skills to enhance farming and associated services in rural area communities.

Please complete this form and return to bddietz@outlook.com on or before the above deadline, put Merchant Grant in the subject line. By mail send your grant request to: Van Merchant Grant, 13416 W. Pinhook Rd. Lena IL. 61048. DO NOT drop off at the home, as it may be overlooked

The goal of this program is to grant \$15,000 total per year to the following school districts/students of these school districts/ young graduates living within these school districts Lanark, Shannon, Pearl City, Stockton, Lena, Orangeville, Pecatonica, Scales Mound, Warren River Ridge, Dakota, Durand, Forreston, Milledgeville, West Carroll, and Winnebago. The grant is open for 2- and 4-year colleges, trade school, apprenticeships, and schools offering new agriculture programs. We are open to looking at types of educational opportunities that are often overlooked.

This year, the grants will focus more strictly on ag-centered careers and financial need. This award is not just for straight A students; all who are passionate about their future career in agriculture are encouraged to apply.

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Full name of applicant	 	
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Phone		
Name of Parent if under 18		
School Name		
School Contact/Title		
School Address		

City/State/Zip	
Phone	Email
Va	an Merchant Rural & Agricultural Grant Application
	BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Please list School Activ	vities and Special Awards:
Please list areas of Co	
Please inform us of the	e educational pursuit and name of the school/educational facility.
	personal references. Good choices are a Pastor, teacher, high Relatives are not accepted as reference:
Name, address, phone	; #
<u> </u>	
Places attach a short l	sand written coopy telling up of your plane for the life you have

Please attach a short **hand written** essay telling us of your plans for the life you have ahead of you. Do not write what you think we want to hear, tell us what you road you hope to travel to a good life in rural America!

TIP: Authenticity matters more than polish/perfection. Typed essays will not be accepted.

I will reply to all submissions. If you do not get a confirmation, please call or text me at 815-291-2849.