



SOUTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

About the Program – Class X

HISTORY

Founded in 1999 by a group of forward-thinking educators and agricultural professionals, the South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Program (SDARL) was established to ensure that the South Dakota rural agricultural community continues to thrive! The SDARL leadership program is conducted under the auspices of a 15-member Board of Directors who oversee the SDARL Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit foundation. There are approximately thirty such programs across the United States and Canada, in addition to the international Nuffield Scholars program. The flagship 18-month leadership program is the primary means of carrying out the mission of the SDARL Foundation, along with educational opportunities for alumni and other agricultural entities in the state.

MISSION

SDARL is dedicated to identifying and developing leaders for agriculture and rural communities in order to enhance the quality of life in South Dakota.

BACKGROUND

The SDARL program has 271 alumni from the first nine classes. Class X (ten) will be chosen in 2018 and will carry out its 18-month leadership development experience between November 2018 and April 2020. Every day, SDARL graduates make a positive and profound impact on agriculture and rural communities throughout the state. Our leaders serve on commodity boards and county boards, in legislative chambers and Chambers of Commerce—building consensus, building teams, building South Dakota. You see the results of our leadership development program when our graduates serve as volunteers and leaders on school, city, church, healthcare, economic development, county commission, zoning, and various industry boards. They are leading by example as members of commodity groups and ag lending institutions. They are leading by positive influence in our state’s legislature, in state agencies, and as governor appointees in various capacities. We are proud of what they have accomplished and of the positive results that will happen in the future. Much of that started when they made their decisions to take part in the SDARL program. Guaranteed, a SDARL experience will prepare you for lifelong leadership opportunities.

SOUTH DAKOTA AG & RURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

South Dakota is a big state! There is a broad diversity in agriculture and in the needs of rural communities. To accommodate these needs, the SDARL Foundation has two offices; one in Brookings and one in Rapid City. The focal point for applications to each class is Lori Cope, Executive Director. She can be reached at:

SDARL
West River Ag Center
1905 N Plaza Boulevard
Rapid City, SD 57702-9302
605-216-6178 Lori.Cope@sdstate.edu

SELECTION CRITERIA

The South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership program has seven basic qualifications:

- Men and women approximately aged 25-55 years
- Full-time employment in production agriculture, agri-related occupations, or community/rural development
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Lives in South Dakota or has a demonstrated sphere of influence that benefits South Dakota agriculture and rural communities
- Demonstrated leadership experience
- Potential for future leadership growth
- Commitment by the individual, spouse/partner if applicable, and employer to attend all seminars, pay tuition, and abide by SDARL policies

Candidates must document, to the satisfaction of the selection committee that his/her full participation in the SDARL program will not adversely affect his/her business or operation. A signed agreement is required stating that spouse/partner (if applicable) and employer (if not self-employed) understand the time requirements for participation and support the applicant's candidacy. It is our hope that what you learn will be shared with your spouse/partner/family and/or your employer/ co-workers.

Applicant must demonstrate during the interview process their ability to participate meaningfully in academic seminars, outside reading, written assignments, and thorough self-expression. In addition, those chosen must support and abide by all policies, rules, and regulations of the South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Board of Directors. There are no specific education requirements for selection.

PARTICIPANT SELECTION

The application and accompanying forms are considered by a Selection Team, which will interview eligible candidates and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors as to which applicants should be selected for a class. The SDARL Board of Directors votes to approve members of each class at its meeting in June of the year the class starts. Each class typically has 30 participants. All applications will be considered impartially regardless of gender, race, religion, creed, disability, age, marital status, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Almost all of the applicants who apply for a class are "qualified" to be in the class, but there is only room for 30 class members. SDARL is looking for candidates who are receptive to experiential learning, have shown some signs of accepting leadership positions, and are dedicated to a career that advances agriculture and rural community development.

Other considerations for selection include:

- Except in rare cases, close relatives (spouse, brother/sister) will not be selected for the same class
- The number of participants from the same organization or business entity in one class or consecutive classes may be limited
- It is the goal of the SDARL Board of Directors to have 2/3 of each class “hands on” in a production agriculture occupation, and each class should have diversity among the types of production

TIMETABLE FOR SELECTING CLASS X

January 1, 2018	Application process is open for CLASS X and applications are accepted
March 30, 2018	Applications due in SDARL Office
April 2018	Applicants notified of interview date/city
Mid-April to May 2018	Interviews with eligible applicants at various locations throughout the state
June 2018	Board of Directors selects class Class members notified Public announcement of Class X members
November 9 -10, 2018	First seminar meeting for Class X Pierre, SD

COSTS

There is no cost to apply to the program. If selected, there is a participation fee of \$4,200 (plus tax, if applicable for a total of \$4,473), which can be paid in four installments over the two years: June (\$1,500) and November (\$1,000) 2018, and July (\$1,000) and December (\$700 and tax) 2019. The participation fee is only ¼ of the total cost to provide the program, with the balance paid by corporations and associations who share our vision for strong leadership, and alumni and friends.

The program pays for hotel rooms when part of a seminar date, airfare to and from the National and International Seminars, bus transportation during a seminar, and most meals incurred during seminars. The cost of getting to and from each seminar or a hub airport are not included. There may be some meals not paid by SDARL, and some taxi or other minor transportation costs. Participants will be notified in advance on an agenda of these occasions.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Each person selected for the program will be expected to adhere to a Code of Conduct. The code is based on a fundamental respect for each other, the advancement of their education to be a leader, and the reputation of the SDARL program. Participants will be required to abide by the code, which falls into four areas: professional attitude, conduct, attendance, and dress.

Professional Attitude

Participants are investing time and money in their participation, as is the SDARL Foundation and those who invest in the Foundation. Participants are expected to have an open mind, a willingness to learn and grow, to function as a team player, respect for opinions that may differ from their own, and a commitment to greater service to the betterment of agriculture and rural communities.

Conduct

Each class member is expected to conduct himself/herself as a responsible leader. Alcoholic beverages will not be consumed during official seminar activities, and intoxication or tardiness due to alcohol are not accepted. The use of tobacco during indoor meetings or class activities also is not permitted.

Attendance

Attendance at all seminars is a priority concern of the SDARL Board of Directors resulting in specific guidelines and disciplinary action in cases of unexcused absences. Obviously, some latitude is granted for personal or family emergencies or serious illness.

Dress

As with any business or distinguished program, participants should always present themselves in a professional manner. Participants will wear men/women business suits for most meetings, with less formal attire required for site tours or special weather conditions. Field or farm attire is not appropriate.

PROPOSED MEETING DATES

Class X will have 12 seminars over 18 months. Because attendance is required, please check the dates below before you apply to ensure attendance. All dates are subject to slight weather adjustments.

1	Leadership Orientation Seminar	Pierre, SD	November 9-10, 2018
2	Communication Excellence Seminar	Brookings, SD	December 11-13, 2018
3	State Government Seminar	Pierre, SD	January 29-31, 2019
4	National Study Seminar	Washington, DC	February 23-March 1, 2019
5	Multi-Cultural Societies Seminar	Chamberlain SD Area	April 9-11, 2019
6	Technology, Innovation, and State-specific Agriculture Seminar	Black Hills Area	June 10-13, 2019
7	Policy, Finance, Marketing and Logistics Seminar	East South Dakota Bus Tour	July 16-18, 2019

8	Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment Seminar	Spearfish/Buffalo, SD	November 5-7, 2019
9	International Perspectives Seminar	Aberdeen/Milbank, SD	December 15-17, 2019
10	Healthcare and Rural Vitality Seminar	Sioux Falls	January 14-16, 2020
11	International Study Seminar	TBD	February 21-March 7, 2020
12	Graduation	Chamberlain	April 18-19, 2020