

# R.L. Melton Agricultural Scholarship

R L Melton was born on March 3, 1931 into a family of modest means. After completing the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, R L left school and briefly worked in one of the Lenoir, NC furniture factories. Shortly thereafter, he joined the U.S. Navy and served during the Korean Conflict aboard the destroyer USS Black. After completing his military service in 1954, R L went to work for Lowe's, which at the time consisted of three stores (North Wilkesboro, Sparta, Asheville). Through a combination hard work and a strong desire to succeed, R L rose to hold a series of management positions.

R L had a strong desire to eventually have a small farming operation. However, a lack of land and equipment postponed his plan. By the early 1970's he began to acquire some land and equipment as money would afford. By the time of his retirement in 1985, R L had a small cattle operation in progress. The years spent farming until his death in 2000 was his happiest and most fulfilling. In fact, he often stated that he found farming relaxing, as well as enjoying the fellowship with fellow farmers.

One of R L's major priorities in life was to see that his family had the opportunity to get additional education in order to effectively pursue and succeed in their chosen professions. He realized that he had been extremely lucky to have succeeded with his minimal education, but also acknowledged the complexity of operating a business in today's environment required a good education. Therefore, the Melton Foundation is honored to continue on with R L's desire to assist others in attaining an education to equip them with the tools for a successful future.

# R.L. Melton Agricultural Scholarship

A one-year scholarship of \$1,000.00

1. This scholarship will be awarded annually to one of the following:
  - a. One outstanding senior graduating from Wilkes County Schools or accredited Wilkes County Home School pursuing an agricultural degree.
  - b. Recently graduated student already enrolled in an accredited college or university pursuing an agricultural degree (preference will be given to high school).
  - c. Adult pursuing advanced training or technical skills
2. Qualifying characteristics will include financial need and a strong motivation to finish college with an agricultural interest.
3. Wilkes County Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors will administer the scholarship. The scholarship committee, with the Wilkes County Agricultural Extension agent serving in a non-voting advisory capacity, will make the selection. Applications will be due April 30th of each school year from a student who has applied and been accepted, or expects to be accepted, by an accredited college or university.
4. The recipient will be awarded:
  - a. One \$500 check than can be used for tuition or books for the fall semester
  - b. One \$500 check that can be used for tuition or books for the spring semester.
  - c. Recipient will be required to provide three updates to the donor during the duration of the scholarship.
5. The selected recipient must submit a copy of his/her tuition bill to the Wilkes County Cattlemen's Association (416 Executive Drive Suite B, Wilkesboro, NC 28697) at least two weeks prior to the bill's due date. This money will be paid directly to the college or university toward the cost of tuition, room and board, or books and required materials. If a student attends the community college system as a full-time student, the maximum payout per semester will be the total cost of tuition, books, and required materials for the college.

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## Application Form

### *Instructions:*

1. Applicant must submit a completed application and all supporting documents to the Wilkes County Cattlemen's Association (416 Executive Drive Suite B, Wilkesboro, NC 28697) by April 30th to be eligible for consideration.
2. Applicant must include a current photograph with application. This photograph may be used in a press release to local media recognizing the winner.
3. Applicant must submit copies of acceptance letters; or, if no acceptance letters have been received, a brief explanation of their application/admission status.
4. A typed, one-page essay to address the following:
  - a. Provide a brief description / history of yourself including your goals and dreams.
  - b. Why do you feel agriculture is important to Wilkes County?
  - c. Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?
5. Applicants are requested to provide (2) sealed letters of reference with applications. One must be a teacher or administrator from the graduating school and one must be a non-family person from the community, (i.e. minister, scout leader, employer, etc....)

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1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_
4. Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***High School Academic Record***

5. Funds are sought for attendance at:

\_\_\_\_\_ Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Pending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Pending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Pending \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of your first choice of college \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Career Goal \_\_\_\_\_ Expected major \_\_\_\_\_

7. Attach an résumé listing all extracurricular activities, honors, awards and work experience you have had during the last four years.

8. Are you a recipient of any other scholarship(s)? If yes, please list name and amount.

9. Provide any additional information that will help the Selection Committee in reviewing your scholarship needs.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Recipient Check Off List

1. Provide a thank-you letter to the donors of this Scholarship by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Letters can be mailed to 416 Executive Drive Suite B, Wilkesboro, NC 28697.
2. Submit a copy of his/her tuition bill to the Wilkes County Cattlemen's Association (416 Executive Drive Suite B, Wilkesboro, NC 28697) at least two weeks prior to the bill's due date. This money will be paid directly to the college or university toward the cost of tuition, room and board, or books and required materials for the **Fall Semester**.
3. Provide an update letter to the donors of this Scholarship by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Letters can be mailed to 416 Executive Drive Suite B, Wilkesboro, NC 28697.
4. Submit a copy of his/her tuition bill to the Wilkes County Cattlemen's Association (416 Executive Drive Suite B, Wilkesboro, NC 28697) at least two weeks prior to the bill's due date. This money will be paid directly to the college or university toward the cost of tuition, room and board, or books and required materials for the **Spring Semester**.
5. Provide an update letter to the donors of this Scholarship by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Letters can be mailed to 416 Executive Drive Suite B, Wilkesboro, NC 28697.