

For the third consecutive year, America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, will give farmers the opportunity to win a \$2,500 donation for their favorite local nonprofit organization.

This year, the program expands to 26 new counties and will provide an online platform to aid community involvement.

Carrie Soucie, Grow Communities winner from Franklin County, Neb., understands firsthand how \$2,500 can impact a nonprofit organization.

"It's great to win something, but when it's something that you can share with someone else that's even better," said Soucie. "I love that the Monsanto Fund has a program giving back in every county. I think that does more good and helps more people than just one large donation in one place."

With more than 90 percent of the U.S. corn and soy production currently impacted by the drought, a farmer's ability to invest in his or her community is affected. To help, the Monsanto Fund will provide additional financial support.

Winning farmers from counties that have been declared natural disaster areas by the USDA will have an opportunity to direct an additional \$2,500 donation to a local non-profit to address community needs that have surfaced due to the drought. To date, more than 660 counties have been declared disasters areas within the 1,271 eligible Grow Communities counties.

Chase County is among those counties in the USDA disaster areas.

"We are committed to supporting farmers and the rural communities in which they live and work," said Deborah Patterson, Monsanto Fund president. "Through Grow Communities and the additional disaster relief funding, we hope to positively impact the people and places that are affected by this devastating drought."

Now through Nov. 30, eligible farmers can apply online, and rural community members can submit their ideas at [www.growcommunities.com](http://www.growcommunities.com) or by calling 1-877-267-3332.

The Monsanto Fund will select one winner at random from each of the eligible counties and announce winning farmers and recipient nonprofits in January 2013.