TENNESSEE YOUNG FARMERS
2020
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

Intent
The purpose is to recognize outstanding environmental stewardship efforts of Tennessee young farmers.

A second purpose is to increase public awareness of the agricultural community's commitment to environmental stewardship by publicizing winners' accomplishments. The program is also an additional incentive for environmental action.

Eligibility
Nominations will be made from Tennessee young farmers who:
1. Have evaluated the potential environmental effects of practices, structure and conditions on their farm.
2. Have a plan to deal with significant environmental/conservation problems and opportunities.
3. Have shown significant progress in implementing their plan over two to four years, or longer.
4. Are a Farm Bureau member.

Procedure
Nominations will be typed reports following guidelines given below prepared by county extension faculty in cooperation with Farm Bureau staff.

County nominations will be submitted to the county extension offices by June 1. The county extension offices will mail the applications to Dr. Shawn Hawkins at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Extension Service by June 15.

All Farm Bureau district nomination applications will be submitted to a committee consisting of three extension employees appointed by the Dean and three members of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation appointed by the President for selection of five district winners and a state winner.

Awards will not be made if the extension service or state committee find that no suitable nominations have been submitted.

Awards
Five Young Farmer Awards will be presented, one in each Farm Bureau district and the statewide winner. The awards will be presented on Friday night, July 17, 2020 at the Young Farmers Conference in Columbia.

District winners will receive a personalized framed certificate and environmental stewardship sign suitable for outdoor display at the farm entrance or similar location. The district winners will receive a $400 cash award from TFBF.

The state winner will also receive a personalized framed certificate and environmental stewardship sign along with a $1,000 cash award from TFBF and trips to the AFBF FUSION Conference in Portland, OR on March 12-16, 2021 and all Tennessee YF&R Conferences.

The extension agent submitting the nomination for a district winner will receive a $400 cash award or the state winner will receive a $1,000 cash award for program enhancement in the county.

To receive any district and state awards, attendance is required at the Young Farmer Conference on Friday night by the young farmer nominee and the county extension agent.

In addition, county nominees may be recognized at suitable local events and through the media. Nominators may wish to select a county winner to be recognized at Farm-City days, county Farm Bureau annual meetings, stewardship dinners, civic club events, county rural development committee meetings or other suitable occasions.
Nomination Content

Nominations should be typed with no page reductions and contain:

1. Letter of nomination from the county Extension Agent.
2. Letter of nomination from the local Farm Bureau President and Agent in charge of YF&R.
3. Nomination summary----An overview of the nomination's major points on a separate page. The nominee's name, mailing address, and phone number should be included. One-page maximum.
4. Nomination----A narrative describing the farm, problems addressed, plans made, actions taken, and results achieved. Economic analysis should be included as well as physical results. Twenty-page maximum. Include before and after pictures.
5. Supporting materials----Information selected to illustrate, support and document the narrative such as photos, maps or diagram, newspaper clippings, field day programs, farm plans, nutrient management plan, Farm-A-Syst results, monitoring data, etc. Twenty-page maximum.
6. Evaluation----Up to five letters from individuals familiar with the farm evaluating and supporting the nomination based on the criteria for the award.

Evaluation

The judging criteria and maximum points for each item are evidence of:

1. A total farm assessment to identify problems. *Up to 20 points.*
2. Development of a feasible, comprehensive plan to address identified problems. *Up to 20 points.*
3. Plan implementation including actions to date and a logical plan for future actions. *Up to 25 points.*
4. Results of actions taken including environmental effects, both on the farm and off-site, and impacts on the farm business. *Up to 25 points.*
5. Other participation in conservation programs (CRP, wetlands reserve, ag non-point source fund, etc.). *Up to 5 points.*
6. Working with organizations (soil conservation districts, RC&D councils, FFA, 4-H, Farm Bureau, county rural development committees, etc.). *Up to 5 points.*

*Total possible is 100 points.*

Examples

Activities and impacts might include some of the following. The list is not complete; many other actions and/or impacts may be appropriate for a particular farm.

- Conservation Tillage
- Contouring
- Terraces
- Debris Basins
- Vegetative Waterways
- Filter Strips
- Riparian Management
- Alternative Watering Facilities
- Winter Cover
- Forestry Management
- Critical Area Treatment
- Wellhead Protection
- Abandoned Well Closure
- Pesticide and/or Fertilizer Storage, Mixing, Disposal
- Fuel Storage
- Hazardous Waste Management
- Septic System Management
- Livestock Waste Management – Nutrient Management
- Milkhouse Waste Management
- Odor Control
- Reduced Soil Loss
- Water Quality Improvement
- Pollution Prevention
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Air Quality Improvement
- Container Management/Disposal
- Sensitive Area Protection
- Wildlife/Fish Habitat Improvement
- Improved Income
- Field Day Host