

**TENNESSEE YOUNG FARMERS
2019
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 YF&R members and 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, July 19, 2019 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-YF&R Leadership Conference 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