

Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts

2013 CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY AWARD

SPONSOR:

Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Brownfield Network, Prairie Farmer, and the Illinois Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Land and Water Resources.

PURPOSE:

The object of this award is to provide recognition to an outstanding conservation family in each Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District that exemplifies **Total Resource Management**. Therefore, each SWCD is encouraged to sponsor a local contest and submit their winner for Council competition.

From the 16 Council winners the AISWCD Awards Committee will select a Governor's Award winner. Selection will be completed prior to and announced at the AISWCD Annual Meeting/BLWR Summer Conference.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Open to all landowners and/or operators who are soil and water conservation district cooperators.
2. Previous LUC winners will be eligible to reapply in the fourth year following their selection as a winner (e.g. winner in 2008 or prior can reapply in 2013).
3. Former Governor's Award winners are permanently ineligible.
4. AISWCD By-laws require that only districts in good standing with the AISWCD are eligible to compete at the state level competition.
5. Entry includes information on all land operated by the owner-operator or the tenant operator.
6. Only complete entries will be accepted.

ORDER OF ENTRY:

Entries should be typed, submitted in a 3-ring standard binder, for 8½ inch x 11inch paper with all supporting materials in correct order put into acetate/plastic page protectors. Unusual circumstances will be scored at the discretion of the judges with all decisions final.

- ❖ Completed, signed entry form
- ❖ Section 1 - Nominee & Land Overview
- ❖ Section 2 - Conservation Activities - aerial photos of fields delineated out and a copy of the nominees/landowners FSA 1026A.
- ❖ Section 3 - Overall Farm Efforts
- ❖ Section 4 - Signed and typed nominee's essay, not to exceed 2 pages, single spaced, 12 point font. Must address in separate paragraph (25 words or less) nominee's conservation philosophy.
- ❖ Section 5 - Typed and signed Soil & Water Conservation District letter of support, not to exceed 2 pages, 12 point font explaining how nominee(s) has contributed to your local conservation efforts and overview of nominee's general farm husbandry.
- ❖ Section 6 - 8 to 10 color photos showing family, homestead, conservation practices, etc. with narratives displayed in binder. Photos submitted must be jpg, bmp or tiff format on CD along with narration in a Microsoft Word document. Photos placed in

PowerPoint or Word document will be accepted if pictures can be cut/pasted into another document.

Please note: The more information that is given in the narratives allows us to prepare a more complete script that is presented at the Farm Family Banquet.

JUDGING

► **District**

Each SWCD should submit their Conservation Farm Family from the entries received at the local level. Only entries completed on the current entry form will be accepted. Entry must include items listed in "Order of Entry" found on page 1 and 2. Districts may announce their Conservation Farm Family after local selection.

DEADLINE: May 17, 2013 - Entries to Land Use Council Chairman

► **Land Use Council Judging**

If more than one (1) entry per Council is received, judging will be performed by an adjoining Land Use Council of their choice. Entries posted after the deadline date will be disqualified.

Each LUC Chairman is responsible for:

- Selection of a judging committee. The judging committee should consist of at least three members from the following groups but not limited to: District Employee, District Conservationist, SWCD Director, LUC Rep., Area Forester or Biologist.
- The judging committee is responsible for selecting one entry to represent the LUC at the state level and signing entry.
- Notify AISWCD of the LUC winner immediately following LUC selection and send binder to the AISWCD office by: **June 7, 2013.**

AISWCD, Attn: Conservation Farm Family Award, 4285 N Walnut Street Road, Springfield, IL 62707

AWARD PACKAGE:

Each of the 16 Council winners will be honored at a hospitality hour and awards banquet during the AISWCD Annual Meeting/BLWR Summer Conference on **Monday, July 22, 2013**. During the conference each council winner (only one family per entry) will receive the following:

- One night's lodging-Monday night- (one room)
- Four (4) complimentary award banquet tickets
- A plaque of recognition
 - *It will be the responsibility of the SWCD to pay for additional plaques if nominee consists of more than one person/family.*

The overall winner will receive the **"Governor's Award"** during the awards banquet. The Governor's Award winner will also be honored at the Illinois State Fair Ag Day program on **Tuesday, August 13, 2013** and receive a personalized "Conservation Farm Family" sign for display at home.

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2013 CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY

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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

AISWCD Area ____ **Land Use Council** ____

SWCD: _____

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Person or persons being honored are: ☐ owner ☐ operator ☐ both

List all names of the family (families) being nominated:

**If nominee consists of more than one person/family and the nominating District would like to have multiple plaques given, it is the responsibility of the District to pay for the additional plaques.*

Name listed on additional plaque: _____

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN SIGNATURE

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SECTION 1: NOMINEE & LAND OVERVIEW

1. List the number of acres for each of the following and enter "0" if an item does not pertain to nominee.

Total Acres (FSA plus farmstead acres)	
Highly Erodible Land	
HEL at or below "T"	
Standard soil testing program	

Tillable Cropland	
Non-Highly Erodible Land	
NHEL at or below "T"	
Nutrient Management	

2. List residue percentage amounts required by conservation farm plan after each crop rotation for most of nominee's HEL acres and list tillage method.

(e.g. soybeans after corn = 30% residue, mulch-till; corn after soybeans = 40% residue, no-till)

3. List residue percent amounts left after each crop rotation for most of nominee's NHEL acres and list tillage method.

(e.g. soybeans after corn = 30% residue, mulch-till; corn after soybeans = 40% residue, no-till)

4. Select soil types that apply to nominee's land and give approximate percentage of each.

☐ Timber _____

☐ Prairie _____

☐ Hydric _____

5. Score the nominee using a scale of 1-5 with 5 being "excellent" and 1 being "poor."

a. Follows and utilizes Best Management Practices such (but not limited to) conserving water, eliminating or reducing soil erosion, integrated pest management or other pesticide or herbicide management, maximizes animals' such living conditions and veterinary care	
b. Stays current with and implement new and innovative technologies	
c. Demonstrates a history of maintaining a conservation plan and consistently implementing it	
d. Demonstrates a commitment to conservation by investing their own resources in implementing practices and has sought sources of support other than NRCS	
e. Demonstrates good stewardship such as placing conservation easements on land, allowing public and multi-use access, building trails, maintaining wildlife habitat	
f. Participates in educational programs such as 4-H, allows tours or conducts demonstration events, participates in the community including donating to food banks, schools, or contributing to other groups or other events	
g. Demonstrates leadership by participating in community, government, and nonprofit or grassroots groups and furthers their work	

SECTION 2: CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

1. Add recent FSA Aerial Photos (Arc View acceptable) with farm fields delineated out.
2. Add copy of nominee's current FSA 1026A
3. List nominee's acres in the following conservation practices:

Pasture w/out rotational grazing	
Timber w/out livestock exclusion	
Wetlands (shallow water areas, bogs, marshes)	
Streams w/out livestock exclusion	
Ponds w/out livestock exclusion	
Waterways	
Riparian Buffers	
Streambank Stabilization Practices	
Diversions	
Farmstead/Field Windbreak	

Pasture with rotational grazing	
Timber with livestock exclusion	
Prairie	
Streams with livestock exclusion	
Ponds with livestock exclusion	
Terraces	
Filter Strips	
Wildlife Habitat	
Field Border Strips	
Total Acres	

4. List the number of practices the nominee has completed for each type of practice listed.

Grade Control Structures	
Abandoned Well Sealing	

Water & Sediment Control Basins	

5. Briefly describe nominee's livestock waste management or animal waste system, if applicable.

6. Evaluate nominee's involvement in the following areas:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No All tillable cropland must be at or below Tolerable Soil Loss level
☐ Yes ☐ No Residue Management must be practiced on all tillable cropland
☐ Yes ☐ No Demonstrates a history of maintaining a conservation plan & consistently implementing it
☐ Yes ☐ No Cooperator demonstrates participation in conservation programs and uses conservation technical assistance

SECTION 3: OVERALL FARM EFFORTS

Fill in information for the following six paragraphs.

1. What specific accomplishments have the various members of this family made to better their farm/land and community?
2. How do the members of this family work together to make their farming operation viable & sustainable? List specific examples.
3. Tell how nominee's farm has been used to demonstrate to others in the community the problems & solutions in pollution abatement & environmental enhancement. Explain other ways the nominee helps publicize conservation and natural resources.
4. Describe condition of the nominee's farm when they started and its current condition.

5. Identify the soil & water resource management problems found on nominee's farm. Describe the innovative, as well as traditional, conservation techniques they have used to address these problems.
6. List participation, offices held, awards presented to nominee in conservation/farm organizations (e.g. SWCD, Farm Bureau, etc), local community organizations, church, 4-H or FFA.
7. Attach any additional information to supplement this section such as newspaper clippings, etc.

SECTION 4: NOMINEE'S ESSAY

- Signed and typed nominee's essay not to exceed two pages, single spaced, with 12 point font. Signed and typed nominee's essay, not to exceed 2 pages, single spaced, 12 point font. Also include (25 words or less) in separate paragraph nominee's conservation philosophy.

SECTION 5: SWCD LETTER OF SUPPORT

- Typed and signed Soil & Water Conservation District letter of support, not to exceed 2 pages, 12 point font explaining how nominee(s) has contributed to your local conservation efforts and overview of nominee's general farm husbandry.

SECTION 6: PHOTOS AND NARRATIVES

- 8 to 10 good quality color photos showing family, homestead, conservation practices, etc. with narratives displayed in binder. (Photos will be enlarged for PowerPoint presentation.)
- Photos submitted must be jpg, bmp or tiff format on CD along with narration in a Microsoft Word document.
- Photos placed in PowerPoint or Word document will be accepted only if pictures can be cut/pasted into another document.

Please note: The more information that is given in the narratives allows us to prepare a more complete script to be presented at the Farm Family Banquet.

Judging Certifications for Conservation Farm Family

COUNTY JUDGING COMMITTEE SECTION

Print name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

COUNCIL JUDGING COMMITTEE SECTION

**** Council MUST choose one entry to represent LUC at State contest***

Print name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Adjoining Council: _____ Council #: _____

Comments:

2013 CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY AWARD

State Judging Form

The AISWCD Awards Committee is responsible for selecting the Illinois Conservation Farm Family. Unusual circumstances will be scored at the discretion of the judges with all decisions final. A spot check may be made when recommended by the Executive Committee. A member of the Annual Meeting & Awards Committee and an Area Vice President will conduct the spot check.

Council

(Farm Family Name)

Overall Rating

(5 = excellent, 1 = poor)

Section Comments

Section 1: Nominee & Land Overview		
Section 2: Conservation Activities		
Section 3: Overall Farm Efforts		
Section 4: Nominee's Essay		
Section 5: SWCD Letter of Support		
Section 6: Photos and Narratives		

Overall Comments: