



Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts

2016 GEORGE MCKIBBEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SPONSOR:

Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts Foundation

PURPOSE:

This scholarship has been established by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) to assist outstanding agriculture students in the completion of their education at any Illinois state college (University of Illinois, Eastern, Western, Southern and Illinois State). The student awarded the scholarship should demonstrate superior agriculture academic achievement, commitment to soil and water conservation and potential for innovation and/or leadership ability. The AISWCD Scholarship is awarded at the Annual Meeting/IDOA Bureau of Land and Water Resources Summer Conference for the fall semester of the academic year.

HISTORY:

In the early 1960s no-till agriculture was not widely supported among farmers and agriculture specialists in the United States. George Elvert McKibben, however, made no-till the accepted farming technique that it is today. For thirty-seven years George McKibben was an agronomist for the University of Illinois. This work has been called the single most important contribution to corn production since the development and adaptation of hybrid seed corn.

In 1966 McKibben planted plots on which to conduct these experiments at Dixon Springs, Illinois. The plots are now named after George McKibben and are the oldest of their kind not only in Illinois, but also in the world. McKibben was recognized and given many awards during his lifetime. The best recognition he received was the fact that by 1985 more than one million acres of farmland in Illinois were using no-till as a way of farming.

McKibben died February 1, 1988, but the contributions that he made to no-till continue to be beneficial to this state as well as to the nation. He was a man dedicated to what seemed to many an impossible cause. However, McKibben believed in no-till and proved to the state, as well as the nation, that it was a success. This scholarship is made possible by the funds his family has donated.

ELIGIBILITY:

Any student who will be a junior or senior for the 2016-2017 academic year enrolled at any state college in Illinois (see eligible colleges in Purpose above); in an agriculture degree program is eligible for **nomination by their local soil and water conservation district or self-nomination**.

CRITERIA:

1. Demonstrated academic ability and achievement
2. Commitment to soil and water conservation
3. Potential for innovation and leadership ability

NOMINATION PROCESS:

Applications will be accepted from students and SWCDs until Monday, **May 15, 2016**. Applications must be complete and accompanied by the correct biographical information, transcript and a statement of educational and career goals.

SELECTION PROCESS:

A committee shall review all nominations and select the student to be awarded the George McKibben Memorial Scholarship.

AWARD PACKAGE:

- Three (3) complimentary meal tickets to the AISWCD Recognition Luncheon in Springfield, IL where the award will be presented.
- Certificate of Achievement presented at the Recognition Luncheon.
- \$500.00 Scholarship which will be mailed when student sends in proof of enrollment.



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2016 APPLICATION FORM

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To be eligible a student must:

1. Be a **full-time** (minimum of 12 credit hours) **junior** or **senior** student enrolled in agriculture degree program at any state university in Illinois.
2. Have a grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale or a 4.0 on 5.0 scale.
3. **Submit copy of latest official transcript.**

Please type:

Full legal name: _____

Permanent address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Date of birth: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address for applicant: _____

High School from which you graduated: _____
(Name and City)

Year of graduation: _____

Date you expect to graduate from college: _____

Current grade point average: _____ Scale used: _____ (4.0 or 5.0)

Name of parent, guardian or spouse: _____

Address, City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

(McKibben Scholarship continued)

Have you applied for or received any form of financial aid? Please list below:

List all college extra curricular or community activities, including offices held.

Briefly state your educational plans and careers objectives for the next 5 years.

Briefly describe your interest and experience in soil and water conservation activities.

Character References: List three (3) people who are well acquainted with your education and abilities, providing names, mailing address, email address, and telephone number.

(McKibben Scholarship continued)

I hereby authorize the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts to release any or all of the preceding information, including copies of my transcript.

Signature of Applicant: _____

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain and submit an official copy of their transcript.

Return completed application and transcripts to:

**AISWCD
Attn: George McKibben Scholarship
4285 North Walnut Street Rd.
Springfield, IL 62707**

DEADLINE: May 15, 2016