

CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

Conservation Farm of the Year



**Sponsored by the
West Virginia Conservation Awards Council (WVCAC), and
14 West Virginia Conservation Districts (CD).**

Approved by WVCAC April 12, 2016

CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

Conservation Farm of the Year

Approved: January 12, 2016

Purpose:

To identify and recognize conservation cooperators in West Virginia doing the most outstanding job of implementing their conservation plan in conjunction with other community based activities.

Sponsor:

West Virginia Conservation Awards Council (WVCAC), & 14 Conservation Districts (CD.)

Timelines:

- **May 31** - County and District judging.
- **July** - Area judging.
- **August** - Statewide judging.
- **October** – Presentation of Area and State awards at WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference. County and District winners at local Conservation District annual banquets.

Selection Process:

- County winner – County conservation district supervisors.
- District winner – Conservation district governing body (district supervisors.)
- Area winner – Area judging panel – coordinated by WVCA.
- State winner – State judging panel – coordinated by WVCA.

Awards:

The WVCAC sponsors the following awards:

- County Winners – A plaque to be presented at the local Conservation District annual banquet. A poster listing county winners will be displayed at the WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference.
- District Winners – A check for \$100 and a plaque to be presented at the local Conservation District annual banquet. A poster listing district winners will be displayed at the WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference.
- Area Winners - Special recognition and awards commemorating their level of achievement at the WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference. (Expense paid trip (farmer – plus one guest) to the WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference.)
- State Winners - Special recognition and awards commemorating their level of achievement at the WV Conservation Partnership Conference. (Expense paid trip (farmer – plus one guest) to the WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference.)
 1. First place - \$1,000 check and plaque.
 2. Second Place - \$500 check and plaque.
 3. Third Place - \$250 check and plaque.

Contacts:

WVCA coordinating contact: Area Director.

District contact: District chairperson or designee.

Bio – Security: Judging panels will practice appropriate bio security measures.

CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Eligibility:

- All WV Conservation Districts.
- Any farmer who has a signed “Agreement of Cooperation” in good standing.

Eligibility Exclusion:

- Conservation district supervisors.
- Prior state First Place winners (Farmer.)
- Employees of sponsoring organizations.

Association – Agency	Abbreviation
WV Association of Conservation Districts	WVACD
WVU College of Agriculture, Forestry & Consumer Sciences	WVU-AFCS
WVU Cooperative Extension Service	WVU-CES
WV Department of Education – Agricultural Education	WVDE
WV Department of Agriculture	WVDA
WV Department of Natural Resources	DNR
WV Division of Environmental Protection	DEP
WV Division of Forestry	DOF
WV Conservation Agency	WVCA
WV State Conservation Committee	SCC
USDA - Farm Service Agency	FSA
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service	NRCS
Appointed Member (Selected by membership)	

Selection Process:

1. **District** - Conservation Districts if participating will:
 - Select a district judging panel approved by the governing body.
 - Select county winners.
 - Select a district winner from among the county winners.

2. **Area** – The WVCA will coordinate a judging panel approved by the WVCAC. The panel will nominate farms for statewide consideration.
 - Area 1 may have 1 nomination.
 - Area 2 may have 1 nomination.
 - Area 3 may have 1 nomination.

3. **Statewide** – The WVCA will coordinate a judging panel approved by the WVCAC.
 - Review nominated farms and select 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Basis for Selection (Points System)

1. [20 points] - Total Resource Management (Proper Land Use) Farmer has understanding of and is committed to Total Resource Management.
2. [40 points] - Establishment of practices in accordance with Farm Plan. Farmer has committed resources and efforts installing and maintaining conservation plan and best management practices.
3. [20 points] - Off-site resources. Farmer's conservation plan provides for protection of off-site resources.
4. [10 points] - Cooperator contribution. Cooperator's personal contribution to the farm. Farmer maintains installed practices (operation and maintenance.)
5. [10 points] - Community development. Farmer demonstrates community conservation leadership.

Nomination Packets

Nomination packets of all District Winners submitted to WVCA coordinating contact. Include name, address, and location of farm; (Farm Bio), up-to-date Conservation Farm Plan (plan must include all land used in the farm unit), Land-Use Plan, write-up describing the farm operation and special attributes of the operator and family.

Area Judging

Area I Judging

Capitol CD
Elk CD
Greenbrier Valley CD
Guyan CD
Southern CD

Area II Judging

Little Kanawha CD
Northern Panhandle CD
Upper Ohio CD
West Fork CD
Western CD

Area III Judging

Eastern Panhandle CD
Monongahela CD
Potomac Valley CD
Tygarts Valley CD

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_____ **Farm**
_____ **County**
_____ **Conservation District**

Section 1	
Section 2	
Section 3	
Section 4	
Section 5	
Total	

If an item is not applicable to the farm, the maximum amount of points should be awarded.

EXAMPLE - Section (3 a) if the farmer does not store any chemicals or petroleum on the farm and does not apply any pesticides – award 8 points.

1. [] **Farmer understands and is committed to Total Resource Management.**
(low score is 1 and highest score is 4) Maximum section points are 20.

- a. [] Familiarity with conservation plan that adequately states, sets priorities, and treats resource concerns [award 1-4 points].
- b. [] Conservation plan encompasses all resources, soil, water, animal, plant, air and human activities [award 1-4 points].
- c. [] Plan is developed for the entire farm and rental properties. [award 1-4 points].
- d. [] Farmer is implementing conservation plan on the highest resource priority as identified by the Conservation District [award 1-4 points].
- e. [] Farmer uses record keeping methods. (Animal health, nutrient management plan, animal waste utilization plan) [award 1-4 points].

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2. [] **Farmer commits resources and effort to install and maintain conservation plan and best management practices.** (low score is 1 and highest score is 8) Maximum section points are 40.
- a. [] Operates in accordance with soil survey and land capability maps [award 1-8 points].
 - b. [] All ingress or egress routes are properly planned, installed, and maintained or upgraded with no visible signs of excessive erosion [award 1-8 points].
 - c. [] Appropriate ground cover is maintained to reduce erosion (pasture management, cover crops, etc.) [award 1-8 points].
 - d. [] Uses and maintains appropriate management practices when applicable to protect resources (nutrient management, pesticide management, woodlot management, record keeping, pasture management, etc.) [award 1-8 points]
 - e. [] Uses and maintains appropriate structural practices where applicable to protect resources (fencing, stream bank protection, waste management facilities, livestock pads, diversions, farm ponds, troughs, spring developments, etc.) [award 1-8 points].
3. [] **Conservation plan provides for the protection of off-site resources.** (low score is 1 and highest score is 8) Maximum section points are 20.
- a. [] Farmer uses approved methods for chemical safety and disposal. Label rates are applied in all operations. (petroleum products, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) [award 1-8 points].
 - b. [] Farmer improves water quality that leaves the property by implementing best management systems [award 1-6 points].
 - c. [] Farmer utilizes soil testing [award 1-6 points].

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4. [] **Cooperator's personal contribution to farm. Farmer maintains installed practices (operation and maintenance).** (low score is 1 and highest score is 5)
Maximum section points are 10.
- a. [] Cooperator daily manages farm. Structural practices are maintained appropriately [award 1-5 points].
 - b. [] Cooperator's family provides labor. Agronomic practices are maintained appropriately [award 1-5 points].
5. [] **Farm family demonstrates community resource leadership.** (low score is 1 and highest score is 5) **Maximum section points are 10.**
- a. [] Farm family is aware of and involved in local agriculture issues by serving in natural resource organizations as an officer, committee chairperson, active committee member, or other public functions [award 1-5 points].
 - b. [] Farm family is willing to share conservation accomplishments with others by hosting field days, participating in peer panels, and participating in the education of school aged children [award 1-5 points].