

# 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 January 18, 2011**

# **CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM**

## **Conservation Farm of the Year**

**Approved: January 18, 2011**

### **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 awards at partnership conference

### **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 to be presented at the WV Conservation Partnership Conference:

- County Winners - Expense paid trip (Farmer and 1 guest - per guidelines established by the WVCAC) to the WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference.
- District Winners – check for \$100.
- Area Winners – The area finalists not placing first, second, or third will receive special recognition and awards commemorating their level of achievement.
- State Winners:
  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.\*

\*In the event of a tie, an area may have two nominees.

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

# CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

## Evaluation Sheet Page 1

\_\_\_\_\_ **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].

# CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

## Evaluation Sheet Page 2

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].

# CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

## Evaluation Sheet Page 3

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].