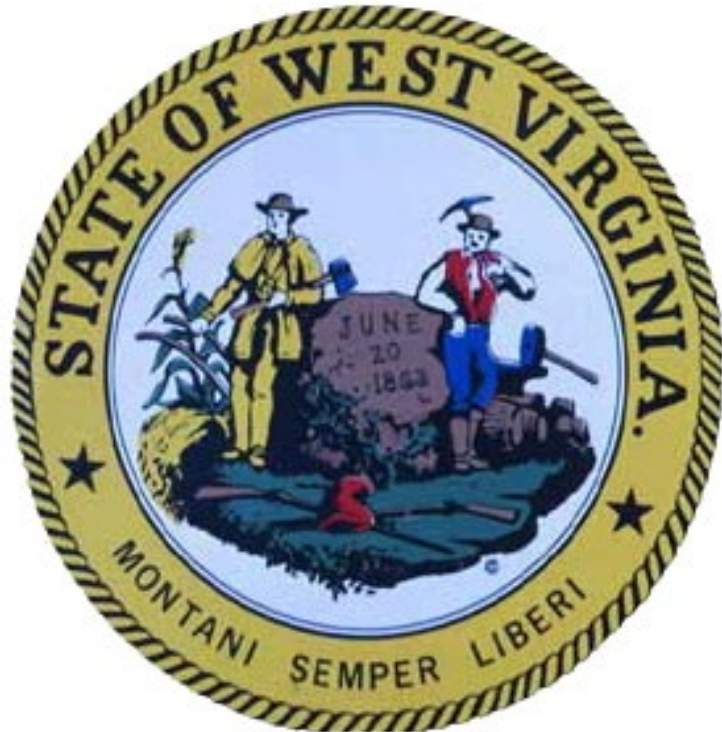


WV CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

WV Conservation Farm of the Year



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

Approved by WVCAC March 5, 2018

WV CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

WV Conservation Farm of the Year

Approved: April 12, 2016

Purpose:

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

Sponsor:

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

Timelines:

- **May** - County and District judging
- **July** - Area judging
- **August** - Statewide judging
- **October** – Presentation of Area and State awards at the WV Conservation Partnership Annual Conference. County and District winners will be honored 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 West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA.)
- State winner – State judging panel – coordinated by WVCA.

Awards:

The WVCAC sponsors the following awards:

- County Winners – A plaque will 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.) Outdoor signage designating them as Conservation Farm of the Year Finalist.
- 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 outdoor signage designating winner as Conservation Farm of the Year.

Contacts:

WVCA coordinating contact: Area Director.

District contact: District chairperson or designee.

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

WV CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Eligibility:

- All 14 WV Conservation Districts.
- Any farmer who has a signed “Agreement of Cooperation” and is in good standing with the district.

Eligibility Exclusion:

- Conservation district supervisors.
- Prior state First Place winners (Farmers within the last 8 years)
- Employees of sponsoring organizations.

Association – Agency	Abbreviation
WV Association of Conservation Districts	WVACD
WVU College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Design	WVU-ANR&D
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 Judging** – Participating Conservation Districts will:
 - Select a district judging panel approved by the district board.
 - Select county winners.
 - Select a district winner from among the county winners.
 - Forward the nomination packet for the district winner to the district’s respective WVCA area director by June 1.

2. **Area Judging** – The WVCA will coordinate a judging panel approved by the WVCAC. The panel will tour District nominated farms and may select up to 2 farms per area for statewide consideration. To qualify both farms in the area must be separated by no more than 5 points. If more than two farms fall into this criteria the two highest scoring farms will be chosen.

3. **Statewide Judging** – The WVCA will coordinate a judging panel approved by the WVCAC. The panel will tour Area nominated farms and select the conservation farm of the year.

WV 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. [50 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. [30 points] – Personal/Community development. Farmer demonstrates community conservation leadership.

Nomination Packets

Nomination packets of all District Winners will be 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) including a plan map, narrative describing the farm operation and special attributes of the farm and family.

Area Judging

East Area Judging

Eastern Panhandle CD
Greenbrier Valley CD
Monongahela CD
Potomac Valley CD
Southern CD
Tygarts Valley CD
West Fork CD

West Area Judging

Capitol CD
Elk CD
Guyan CD
Little Kanawha CD
Northern Panhandle CD
Upper Ohio CD
Western CD

WV CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

Evaluation Sheet Page 1

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

Section 1	
Section 2	
Section 3	
Total	

1. [] **Farmer understands and is committed to Total Resource Management.**
(low score is 1 and highest score is 10) Maximum section points are 20.
- a. [] Farmer has a conservation plan that adequately states, sets priorities, and treats resource concerns encompassing all resources; soil, water, animal, plant, air and human activities. [award 1-10 points].
- b. [] Farmer is implementing with appropriate documentation the conservation plan on the highest resource priority as identified by the Conservation District [award 1-10 points].

CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

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2. [] **Farmer commits resources and effort to install and maintain conservation plan and best management practices.** (low score for each question is 1 and highest score is 10) Maximum section points are 50.
- a. [] Operates in accordance with soil survey and land capability maps [award 1-10 points].
 - b. [] All ingress or egress routes are properly planned, installed, and maintained or upgraded with no visible signs of excessive erosion [award 1-10 points].
 - c. [] Appropriate ground cover is maintained to reduce erosion (pasture management, cover crops, etc.) [award 1-10 points].
 - d. [] Uses and maintains appropriate management practices when applicable to protect resources (nutrient management, pesticide management, woodlot management, record keeping, pasture management, soil testing, and associated BMPs, etc.) [award 1-10 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 1-10 points].

CONSERVATION FARM AWARD PROGRAM

Evaluation Sheet Page 3

3. [] **Farm family demonstrates community resource leadership.** (low score is 1 and highest score is 10) Maximum section points are 30.
- a. [] Farmer/Farm family is aware of and involved in local agriculture issues. They serve as leaders in agricultural, natural resource, and community organizations. [award 1-10 points]
 - b. [] Farm Family utilizes innovative agricultural and conservation practices and techniques in the operation and is recognized by the local farming community as a conservation leader. [award 1-10 points]
 - c. [] 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 1-10 points].