

## IOWA FARM ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER AWARD—NOMINATION

AWARD YEAR: 2020

**Nominations for Award Year 2020 must be received by May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Nominations received after this date will be considered for Award Year 2021. Thank you for nominating an Iowa Farm Environmental Leader!**

**NOMINATOR INFORMATION:** We may need to reach out to you if we have any questions about the nomination form. Please provide your preferred contact information here.

Nominator Name: Casey Judge E-mail Address: casey.judge@iowaagriculture.gov

Phone Number: 515-725-4119 Affiliation (optional): IDALS

**NOMINEE INFORMATION:** Identify the farm owner/operator who is being nominated for this award.

Owner/Operator Name (1): Sara Farmer Name (2): John Farmer

E-mail Address: Farmers@email.com Phone Number: 641-555-1234

Home Address: 1776 Freedom Blvd., Our Town, IA 55555

**NOMINEE INFORMATION POINT OF CONTACT:** If correspondence regarding award status and event details should be sent to someone other than the Nominee above, please provide their information here.

Point of Contact Name: Suzy Farmer E-mail Address: suzyfarmer@email.com

Phone Number: 515-123-5555 Relationship to Nominee: Daughter

Mailing Address: 1212 Conservation Rd., Other Town, IA 55555

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**CERTIFICATE INFORMATION:** Those selected for this award will receive a signed certificate at an awards ceremony held during the Iowa State Fair in August. Please enter below the name(s) that should be included on the certificate, written as they should be printed on the document. **Whether to include the farm name and family names, or just one or the other is a matter of personal preference.**

Farmer Crops, LLC; John and Sara Farmer

For the ceremony, please provide phonetic pronunciation of name(s): FAR-mer

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**LEADERSHIP:** The Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award recognizes outstanding farmers in Iowa who not only implement best management practices in their own operations, but also strive to be leaders for conservation within the farming community. Describe below the nominee's leadership activities, especially as related to promoting conservation and environmentally friendly farming practices. These activities may include (but are not limited to): helping neighbors, hosting field days, community involvement, and providing leadership with local/state/national boards, committees, and organizations.

John has been involved with the local county Soil and Water Conservation District as a commissioner for the last 16 years, and is also on the Iowa Impaired Stream Watershed project advisory board. He is a former 4-H leader and local Lions Club member. Sara has served as a local County Extension Council chairperson, and has been the county fair horse barn superintendent for the last 13 years. She serves as youth group leader in their church. The Farmers have hosted a saturated buffer field day for the Impaired Stream Watershed project.

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**FARM INFORMATION:** The Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award is targeted toward farmers. Therefore, it is important for us to understand the full operation of the farm. (Note: A farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced or sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year. Government payments are included. --USDA)

Primary Iowa County where farm is located: Clay Second County: Monroe

List any additional counties: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the Total Size of farming operation? Please select the appropriate range of total number of acres operated:

160 acres or less \_\_\_\_\_ 161-320 acres \_\_\_\_\_ 321-640 acres \_\_\_\_\_  
641-1280 acres \_\_\_\_\_ 1281-2560 acres X more than 2560 acres \_\_\_\_\_

List the agricultural products and the approximate percent (%) of the farm that is used for the production of each commodity (e.g., row crops 50%, livestock 40%). You may also list commodities such as milk, eggs, honey, etc. For livestock or fowl, please indicate an approximate scale of the operation (head) and the type of operation (starter pullets, finishing, cow/calf, etc.).

65% Row crop (Corn/Bean), 10% Hay, 10% pasture/livestock (~55 head of stock cows and calves and 3,000 head of finishing hogs), 10% CRP

How many years has the farm been in operation? 132 Has it been recognized as a Century Farm? X Heritage Farm? \_\_

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**FARM OPERATION:** In this section we would like to learn about the best management practices that the nominee incorporates into their standard farming operation.

Describe the following aspects of the farm operation as applicable based on the commodities produced. *Information on scale of practice implementation is important (e.g., acres of cover crops).*

**ROW CROPS:** crop rotation (including cover crops), tillage management, soil fertility management (testing frequency, application of nutrients), etc.;

**LIVESTOCK/FOWL:** manure management, grazing management, etc.

Cropland is generally a corn-soybean rotation. Steeper land is in a eight year rotation with hay. Contour farm all sloping fields. 100% no-till operation. Soil fertility sampling is completed on a two-year cycle. Phosphorus and potassium are variable rate applied and are managed to achieve an 'optimum' soil test level. Nitrogen fertilizer is spring applied. All fertilizer and hog manure is injected. Late spring soil nitrate test and fall cornstalk nitrate test samples are collected for corn ground receiving manure applications and use the sample results to refine nitrogen rates. Hog manure is collected in concrete pits beneath the hog finishing buildings. Currently planting 500 acres cover crops and experimenting with multi-species plantings. The soil conservation plan developed years ago is updated and revised every 5-7 years. Cows are pastured with a rotational grazing system. They built a manure settling basin, and developed a CNMP (comprehensive nutrient management plan) for their hogs.

Describe additional best management practices the nominee uses in the farm operation that provide water quality and soil sustainability benefits (terraces, grassed waterways, wetlands, prairie restoration, etc.). See reference list on website for more practice examples. Information on scale of practice implementation is encouraged (e.g., number of retention basins, acres of prairie restoration, total feet of terraces).

10,000 feet of terraces were constructed 10-15 years ago. Started using cover crops 5 years ago using available incentive payments on 100 acres. Installed and maintain 18 acres of grass waterways. Built two ponds. Installed a management intensive grazing system with 5-7 paddocks, a watering system and improved seeding mixtures. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)--30 acres of warm season grass filterstrips adjacent to 2.5 miles of streams, 30 acres of prairie buffer strips and have incorporated wildlife food plots and a 4-acres tree and shrub planting into the CRP. Installed a saturated buffer one year ago

treating 65 acres of tile drainage. Participating in the Impaired Stream Watershed project collecting stream and tile water samples for nutrient and bacteria analysis.

List here any of the above best management practices that have been implemented with cost-share incentives. If no cost share has been used, please indicate that.

Cost share helped with: terraces, cover crops, grassed waterways, ponds, CRP area, and saturated buffer.

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**MOTIVATION:** Each farmer and farm operation/family has their own reasons for striving to implement the conservation measures described here. We would like to learn more about what motivates this nominee. What is the nominee's reason(s) for incorporating these practices?

The Farmers believe in maintaining and improving the soil to sustain the operation for the next generation.

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**Thank You!**

*Thank you for nominating a deserving Iowa farmer! If you have any questions about this form or the awards program, please contact Casey Judge at: [award@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:award@iowaagriculture.gov)*