

Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award - Nomination

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 First Name	Nominator Last Name	Nominator eMail Address
<input type="text" value="Casey"/>	<input type="text" value="Judge"/>	<input type="text" value="casey.judge@iowaagriculture.gov"/>
Phone Number	Affiliation (optional)	
<input type="text" value="(515) 725-4119"/>	<input type="text" value="IDALS"/>	

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

Owner/Operator First Name (1)	Owner/Operator Last Name (1)	First Name (2)	Last Name (2)
<input type="text" value="Sara"/>	<input type="text" value="Farmer"/>	<input type="text" value="John"/>	<input type="text" value="Farmer"/>
eMail Address	Phone Number		
<input type="text" value="farmers@email.com"/>	<input type="text" value="(555) 555-5555"/>		
Home Address	City	State	Zip
<input type="text" value="1776 Freedom Blvd."/>	<input type="text" value="Our Town"/>	<input type="text" value="IA"/>	<input type="text" value="11111"/>

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.

Please note that nominators will also be notified of award status. If a nomination is not selected, the nominator will be the only person notified. An Alternate Point of Contact is only needed if you do NOT want the nominee to be notified directly of their award. Awardees receive a letter of congratulations and invitation information to the annual award ceremony held during the Iowa State Fair. If an alternate point of contact is submitted, that information is sent to the point of contact person instead of the awardee.

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.

For the ceremony, please provide phonetic pronunciation of name(s)

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.

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

Second County

Boone

[Select]

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

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

Recognized as a Century Farm?

Recognized as a Heritage Farm?

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.

Row crop is generally in a corn/soybean rotation, with steeper land in an extended rotation with 2 years of alfalfa. All slopes are farmed on the contour, and the farm is 100% no-till. Soil sampling is done every 2 years and fertilizer is variable rate applied to optimum soil test levels. Late-spring nitrogen testing and fall cornstalk nitrate tests are used to refine manure application rates. Cover crops are planted on about 50% of row crop acres as the Farmers experiment with multi-species plantings. Cows are pastured with a rotational grazing system. Hog manure is managed through a CNMP (comprehensive nutrient management plan), which includes collection into manure settling basins and injection application to row crop fields.

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, and about 18 acres of grassed waterways are maintained. Cover crops were started 5 years ago on 10% of row crop acres and the area has grown every year since. They also built 2 water and sediment control basins (ponds). The Farmers installed an intensive grazing management system with 8 paddocks, a watering system, and improved seeding mixtures. Woody vegetated buffers line 2.5 miles of stream channels, and their first saturated buffer was installed last year.

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 assisted with the first year of cover crops, the saturated buffer, and their CRP area.

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 it is their duty to be good stewards of the land. They want their land management practices to be sustainable for many more generations. They say that taking care of the land is not our right, it is our responsibility!