**PURPOSE:**

The Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award provides recognition to an outstanding Conservation Farm Family that exemplifies the AISWCD goal of “Clean Water-Healthy Soil”.

A single winner will be selected from amongst the council-level winners prior to the AISWCD Annual Meeting and Summer Training Conference. The winning Conservation Farm Family will be announced and recognized at the Conservation Farm Family Awards Dinner during the conference.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

* Must be a landowner or operator who is a cooperator with an Illinois SWCD
* Must be an Illinois resident
* Must be from a district in good standing
* Entry must include all land operated by the applicant
* All sections of the application must be completed
* Previous LUC winners are eligible to reapply in the fourth year following their selection

as a LUC winner

* Former winning families are not eligible to apply

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

* Completed Entry Form
* Conservation Activities
* Outreach and Education
* Community Leadership
* Stewardship/Awards
* SWCD Cooperator and Conservation Philosophy
* Color Photos and Nominee Signature
* SWCD Letter of Support

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

Emphasis is placed on new and innovative conservation techniques as well as the application of sound traditional conservation practices with a focus on conservation education. Maximum points per category are as follows:

Conservation Activities 50 pts SWCD Cooperator/Conservation Philosophy 5 pts

Outreach and Education 20 pts Photos 5 pts

Community Leadership 10 pts SWCD Letter of Support 5 pts

Stewardship/Awards 5 pts

**JUDGING DEADLINES:**

* SWCD’s must complete local judging and forward entry to LUC by May 15.
* LUC’s must complete council level judging and forward to AISWCD by June 1.
* AISWCD Awards Committee will select a single overall winner to be announced at the Farm Family Banquet at the Annual Meeting of the SWCD’s.

**AWARD PACKAGE:**

Each of the 16 Council winners will be honored at a hospitality hour and awards banquet during the AISWCD Annual Meeting. During the conference each council winner (only one family per entry) will receive the following:

* One room, one night of lodging
* Four complimentary award banquet tickets
* A plaque or certificate of recognition (additional recognition items must be purchased by SWCD)
* The overall winner will receive the “Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award”
* Recognition at the Illinois State Fair as part of annual Ag Day festivities

**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

**NOMINEE INFORMATION:**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
AISWCD Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ LUC \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
List all family members being nominated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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Nominees are: Owner \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Operator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**FARMING OPERATION – CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES (50 POINTS)**

Total Acres \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tillable Cropland: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Highly Erodible Land (Ac) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Highly Erodible Land (Ac) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HEL at or below “T” (Ac) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NHEL at or below “T” (Ac) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Standard Soil Testing Program \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Nutrient Management Plan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Pasture Acres: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Woodland/Forest Acres: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cover Crop Acres \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please list residue percent amounts required by conservation farm plan after each crop rotation for most of nominee’s HEL acres and tillage method (e.g. soybeans after corn = 30% residue, mulch till; corn after soybeans = 40% residue, no-till)**

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**Please list residue percent amounts left after each crop rotation for most of nominee’s NHEL acres and list tillage method (e.g. soybeans after corn = 30% residue, mulch till; corn after soybeans = 40% residue, no-till).**

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**Acres Years Practiced**

Cover Crops \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No Till \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Strip Tillage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Crop Rotation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

STAR Program \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Waterways \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Filter Strips \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Wetland Restoration \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Livestock Exclusion Fencing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nutrient Management Plan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grazing Management Plan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rotational Grazing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife Habitat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Drainage Water Management **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Does nominee have a woodlot or forest acres? If so, please list management practices:**

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**Please list other conservation practices nominee has installed on property:**

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**Identify the soil and water resource management problems found on the nominee’s farm. Describe the innovative, as well as traditional conservation techniques used to address these problems.**

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**Judges Score This Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION (20 POINTS)**

**Please tell how the nominee’s farm has been used to demonstrate conservation practices to others in the community. Explain other ways the nominee helps promote conservation and natural resource management. (Limit response to 100 words or less)**

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**Has the farm been used for education by school groups, tours, presentations to groups or legislative delegates?**

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**Judges Score This Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (10 POINTS)**

**Please describe leadership activities at community, county, state and national levels. List participation and offices held by nominee in conservation/farm organizations, local community organizations, church, 4-H or FFA. Use separate sheet if necessary.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Judges Score This Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STEWARDSHIP / AWARDS (5 POINTS)**

**Please list any other conservation practices beyond those listed above. Example: Farmland preservation, farmland protection programs, use of alternative fuels, other.**

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**Please list any nominee awards, recognition, or other honors for conservation work on the farm?**

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**Judges Score This Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**SWCD COOPERATOR & CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY (5 POINTS)**

**How long has nominee been a cooperator with the local SWCD?**

Number of Years \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Since (year) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe the nominee’s conservation philosophy in 50 words, or less.**

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**Judges Score This Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PHOTOS (5 POINTS)**

**Please send 10 color photos depicting family, homestead, conservation practices, etcetera with narrative describing each photo. Please title each photo file with a name and short description. For example; “Smith – Terraces”.**

**Judges Score This Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**SWCD LETTER OF SUPPORT (5 POINTS)**

**Typed and signed SWCD Letter of Support, not to exceed 250 words explaining how nominee has contributed to local conservation efforts and overview of nominee’s general farm husbandry. Use separate sheet if necessary.**

**Nominee’s Signature & Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Judges Score This Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**JUDGES FINAL SCORE TOTAL (ALL SECTIONS): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**