

Stockman, Tina

From: Soil & Water Conservation Program
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:09 AM
To: Soil & Water Conservation Program; DNR.Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff
Cc: DNR.MGS SWC Staff
Subject: Missouri Leopold Conservation Award Nominations
Attachments: 2022-CFN-Missouri.pdf

Good morning.

Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts help landowners achieve great things in voluntary conservation every day, but chances to recognize and reward those landowners are rare. The Soil and Water Conservation Program is once again partnering with the Missouri Farmers Care Foundation to present the Missouri Leopold Conservation Award. This award recognizes one outstanding farm each year that is “committed to leaving the land better than they found it”. In addition to significant recognition and prestige, the winner receives an Aldo Leopold Crystal and \$10,000. You can learn more about the award and nomination process here: [Leopold Conservation Award](#). Please help us to find the next award winner by sharing this opportunity with all of your cooperators. The attached application can be printed and made available in the office or shared electronically.

Thank you,

Soil and Water Conservation Program

We’d like your feedback on the service you received from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Please consider taking a few minutes to complete the department’s Customer Satisfaction Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MoDNRsurvey>. Thank you.



Call for Applications Missouri 2022



Presented by
Sand County Foundation *in partnership with*
American Farmland Trust, *and state partners:*
Missouri Farmers Care Foundation,
Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and
the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Leopold Conservation Award

In his influential book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage. The development of a land ethic was, he wrote, "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity." A land ethic is alive and well today in the thousands of American farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who improve soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat.

Sand County Foundation proudly presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners dedicated to leaving their land better than how they found it. They exemplify the spirit of Leopold's land ethic.

In Missouri, Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award in partnership with American Farmland Trust, and state partners: Missouri Farmers Care Foundation, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Leopold Conservation Award recipient receives \$10,000 and a crystal award.

Leopold Conservation Awards recognize extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspire other landowners through their example, and help the general public understand the vital role private landowners play in conservation success.

Leopold Conservation Award 2022

Application Deadline: June 30, 2022

The Missouri award is presented and sponsored by:

Please provide all of the following information in your application.

Name of nominee, name of farm/ranch/business, mailing address, primary county(s) of operation, email address, phone number, website (if applicable), name of nominator, if different from nominee.

How would you like your name to appear on the award if you are selected for the Leopold Conservation Award: (*Examples: John Smith, John Smith and Family, Smith Family Farms*)

Please address the five criteria, and limit total response to 1,500 words.

- 1. Conservation Ethic** – Describe how the nominee has voluntarily exceeded the minimum obligations of regulation to enhance and conserve natural resources.
- 2. Resilience** – Describe the business and conservation methods used by the nominee to make the operation productive into the future.
- 3. Leadership and Communication** – Describe significant efforts the nominee has made to share his/her conservation ethics and techniques with others inside and outside of agriculture. Describe community service, positions held, leadership roles and media outreach.
- 4. Innovation and Adaptability** – Describe how the nominee has taken risks by utilizing or experimenting with new techniques to adapt to change (consumers, markets, weather, regulations, etc.).
- 5. Ecological Community** – Describe how the nominee's agricultural operation works with natural systems (soil, water, plants and wildlife, etc.). Describe how this benefits others.

Describe any other relevant accomplishments and/or challenges.

Please provide this additional information: *Your responses to the following do not impact the selection of the Leopold Conservation Award recipient. This information is intended to help the judges learn more about your practices.*

Number of acres under management (*there is no minimum or maximum acreage required*).

Provide a one line description of your farm/ranch/forest (*examples: dairy farm with cash crops; cow/calf beef operation; integrated forestry with focus of pulp wood production*).

Which local, state, federal agencies or partner organizations are involved with the nominee's conservation practices?

Which, if any, federal conservation programs do you utilize (*e.g. EQIP, CSP, CRP*)?

Which, if any, farm advisors do you work with (*e.g. crop consultant, Extension agent*)?

Please list all organizations which advocate within the agricultural, conservation or environmental fields of which you are a member, partner or affiliate.

Attach three letters of recommendation. At least one should be from a natural resources conservation organization or agency.

Please sign and submit the following statements with the application.

1. I agree to be a nominee for the Leopold Conservation Award.
2. I manage and/or own the property described in this application.
3. The agricultural operation described in this application is in compliance with all applicable regulations, and provides a positive example of environmental stewardship.
4. I understand I will be asked to be available for communications/media opportunities to promote the message of voluntary private lands conservation.
5. I understand a video will be produced featuring my agricultural operation, which will require my participation.

Options to submit application: online at www.MOFarmersCare.com/lca (preferred) or mail to Missouri Farmers Care Foundation
19171 State Highway 11
Kirksville, MO 63501



Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives

FCS Financial

MFA, Inc.

Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Missouri Cattlemen's Association

Missouri Corn Merchandising Council

Missouri Fertilizer Control Board

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program

McDonald's

The Nature Conservancy

For further information, please see the Leopold Conservation Award website: www.leopoldconservationaward.org