



# Indiana Conservation Farmer of the Year Application Questions

(applications must be submitted using the [online application form](#))

Indiana's Conservation Farmers of the Year are Hoosier farmers who actively incorporate and practice conservation on the land. The award is sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau Inc. and Indiana Prairie Farmer in cooperation with the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

One Indiana farmer will be honored as the top conservation-minded producer in the Hoosier state at the statewide Conference of Indiana SWCDs in January.

---

## Rules for the Conservation Farmer of the Year application

- Applications must be [submitted online](#) (link to form provided on [iaswcd.org](http://iaswcd.org))
- Any active farmer in Indiana is eligible to be nominated for the award. However, all nominees must have developed a Conservation Plan with their local NRCS office. Preference will be shown to applicants who demonstrate that they earn at least 50 percent of their income from farming.
- Each county SWCD may submit one application for consideration as a state winner. The application is due on or before September 13, 2024 by 5 p.m. EDT.
- If the county SWCD awards a local Conservation Farmer (or Cooperator) of the Year award at their annual meeting, we encourage this applicant to also be submitted for consideration as the state winner.
- A typed signature from the SWCD Chair must be included in the online application. The signature verifies that the application was favorably judged by the SWCD in which the farmer lives/operates. Applications without a typed Supervisor signature will not be considered for the state award.
- Farmers who have been using conservation management practices for at least 25 years are eligible to apply for the "Career Conservation Farmer" distinction. Career Conservation Farmer nominees must complete the additional narrative section.
- Support material is required. This must include at least 3-4 digital photos of conservation practices on the farm and **at least one picture of the farmer**. Other documentation could include examples of conservation management practices on their properties such as photos, articles, etc. These may be emailed to IASWCD ([amy-work@iaswcd.org](mailto:amy-work@iaswcd.org)) and must be received by September 13, 2024 by 5 p.m. EDT. The applicant's name, address, phone, email, and county must be clearly marked on all support material. It is the sender's responsibility to verify the material was received.

# 2023 Indiana Conservation Farmer of the Year Application

Owner/Operator		Tenant (if applicable)	
First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Street Address:			
City:			
State/Zip Code:			
County:			
Daytime Phone: with area code			
Email address: If no email, include county SWCD email			

If a corporation or partnership is nominated, please list the name and contact information for one individual to be honored.

First Name	Last Name

**SWCD submitting application:**

Does the nominee have a Conservation Plan on file with NRCS?  
(Note: Applicants must have a Conservation Plan.)

What percentage of the Conservation Plan has been completed?

Would the nominee like to be considered for the Career Conservation Award?  
(Farmers who have been using conservation management practices\* for at least 25 years are eligible to apply for the Career Conservation Farmer distinction. Career Conservation Farmer nominees must complete the additional narrative section on page 8/Section 4.) Yes or No

**Section 1. Applicant Farm Information:**

*Please feel free to describe the land use in further detail in the space provided.*

Land Use	Acres
Cropland	
Pasture	
Woodland	
Wildlife land	
Other (indicate):	

Type of Operation	No. of units
Livestock	
Cash crop	
Other (indicate):	

SAMPLE

**Section 2a: Conservation Management Practices Applied**

Practice	Extent of Implementation (i.e. No. of Acres)	Number of Years Practice has Been in Use
Conservation Tillage (includes no-till and strip till)*		
Other Conservation Tillage maintaining 30% residue cover		
Access Control/Use Exclusion		
Cover Crops*		
Field Borders		
Nutrient Management/Waste Utilization*		
Pasture Planting/Renovations		
Woodland Protection		
Tree Plantings/Riparian Forest Buffer		
Woodland Improvement* (harvest, pruning, thinning)		
Wildlife Habitat Improvements		
Filter strips		
Prescribed Grazing*		
Conservation Crop Rotation (3 or more different crops in a 3 year rotation)*		
Windbreaks		
Strip cropping		
Other (state practice)		

**Section 2b: Constructed Conservation Improvements/Practices**

Practice	Extent of Implementation (i.e. No. of Acres)	Number of Years Practice has Been in Use
Ag Waste Management System:		
Diversions:		
Grassed Waterways:		
Structures – Grade Stabilization:		
Terraces:		
Structures – Flood control:		
Ponds (for conservation measures):		
Streambank Stabilization:		
Wetland Restoration or Construction:		
Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs):		
Other (specify):		

**Section 3: Overall Conservation Practices**

**A.** Describe the benefits of the conservation practices implemented (both new and ongoing) in terms of conservation of soil and/or water resources.

**B.** Describe the impact of the conservation efforts on the success or productivity of the farming operation. (e.g. Describe how soil health has improved. Crop yields? Examples or returns on conservation investments.)

**C.** Describe the conservation organizations the nominee is active in and any leadership positions held.

#### **Section 4: CAREER CONSERVATION FARMER NARRATIVE**

This section is to be completed only by farmers who wish to be considered for the Career Conservation Farmer designation. See instructions on Page 1 for more information. Maximum 1,000 words.

Answer the following statements.

- Explain why you chose to farm and describe the condition of your operation when you began farming.
- What types of conservation practices do you use on your farm?
- How has your farm changed over the years due to your conservation farming practices?
- Why are soil and water conservation practices important to your farming operation?
- How has your soil health improved?

SAMPLE



Signature of SWCD Chairperson:

---

Representing:  
(specify which county SWCD)

---

Date:

---

**A typed signature above is required.**

**This signature signifies acceptance of this application for consideration for this award.**

### **IMPORTANT**

Support material is required. This must include three to four digital photos of conservation practices on the farm and at least one picture of the farmer. Other documentation could include examples of conservation management practices such as articles, photos, etc. These may be emailed/mailed separately to the IASWCD and must be received by 5 pm on September 13, 2024. The applicant's name, address, phone, email, and county must be clearly marked on all support material. It is the sender's responsibility to verify the material was received.

#### **2024 Conservation Farmer of the Year**

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
225 S. East Street, Suite 142  
Indianapolis, IN, 46202  
*amy-work@iaswcd.org*