

2025-2026 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award application

An Indiana Conservation Farmer of the Year is a Hoosier farmer who actively incorporates and practices conservation on the land. This award is sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau Inc. and Indiana Prairie Farmer in cooperation with the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD).

One Indiana farmer will be honored as the top conservation-minded producer in the state at the IASWCD Statewide Conference in January 2027.

* Indicates required question

ELIGIBILITY

For the Conservation Farmer of the Year application:

- Applications must be submitted via this online form.
- 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 March 31, 2026 by 5 p.m. EDT.
- If the county SWCD awards a local Conservation Farmer of the Year award at their annual meeting, we encourage this applicant to also be submitted for consideration for the state award.
- A typed signature from the SWCD Chairperson must be included at the end of this application where indicated. 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 CCF section.
- Support material is required. This must include at least 3-4 digital photos of conservation practices on the farm and at least one quality picture of the farmer and/or farm family. Other documentation could include examples of conservation management practices on their properties such as photos, articles, etc. These can be emailed to IASWCD (amy-work@iaswcd.org) and must be received by March 31, 2026, 5:00 pm (EDT). The applicant's name and SWCD county must be clearly marked on all support material. It is the sender's responsibility to verify the material is received.

FARMER APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Owner/Operator Nominee First Name: *

2. Owner/Operator Nominee Last Name: *

3. Nominee Mailing Address: *

4. Nominee County: *

5. Nominee Daytime Phone with Area Code: *

6. Nominee Email:

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

8. Does the nominee have a Conservation Plan on file with NRCS? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes (continue with application)

☐ No (Note: Applicants must have a Conservation Plan on file to be eligible for this award.)

9. What percentage of the Conservation Plan has been completed? *

10. SWCD that is submitting this application: *

11. Name of person completing this online application *

12. Email of person completing this application *

Applicant Farm Information: LAND USE

13. Check all that apply

Check all that apply.

	Yes
Cropland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pasture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife Land	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Describe the land use in further detail and include number of acres for each type of land use noted above:

Applicant Farm Information: TYPE OF OPERATION

15. Check all that apply

Check all that apply.

	Yes
Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cash Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. Describe the Type of Operation in further detail and include number of units for each type of operation noted above:

Conservation Management Practices Applied

17. Check all that apply

Check all that apply.

	Yes
Conservation Tillage (includes no-till and strip till)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Conservation Tillage maintaining 30% residue cover	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access Control/Use Exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover Crops	<input type="checkbox"/>
Field Borders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrient Management/Waste Utilization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pasture Planting/Renovations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tree Plantings/Riparian Forest Buffer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland Improvement (harvest, pruning, thinning)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife Habitat Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Filter Strips	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescribed Grazing	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Crop Rotation (3 or more different crops in a 3 year rotation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Windbreaks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strip Cropping	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (state practice; specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Describe the Extent of Implementation (i.e. number of acres) and the Number of Years for each Conservation Management Practice noted above:

Constructed Conservation Improvements/Practices

19. Check all that apply

Check all that apply.

	Yes
Ag Waste Management System	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diversions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grassed Waterways	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structures - Grade Stabilization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terraces	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structure - Flood Control	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ponds (for conservation measures)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Streambank Stabilization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetland Restoration or Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

below)

20. Describe the Extent of Implementation (i.e. number of acres) and the Number of Years for each Constructed Conservation Improvement/Practice noted above:

Overall Conservation Practices

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

22. 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 or crop yield improvements and/or provide examples of returns on conservation investments.)

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

Career Conservation Farmer Distinction Questions (optional)

This section is to be completed only for farmers who wish to be considered for the **Career Conservation Farmer** designation. *To be eligible for this distinction, farmers must have been using conservation management practices for at least 25 years.*

24. Explain why you chose to farm and describe the condition of your operation when you began farming.

25. Why did you decide to implement certain conservation practices on your farm?

26. How has your farm changed over the years due to your conservation farming practices?

27. Why are soil and water conservation practices important to your farming operation?

28. How has your soil improved?

OPTIONAL: Additional Information

29. Please provide any additional information here that may be needed for this application and/or you'd like to share:

Signature of Validation

by the SWCD Chairperson

30. The typed name below is the SWCD Chairperson who accepts and, by typed signature below, signifies that this application is valid and should be considered for the statewide award of Conservation Farmer of the Year. *

31. Chairperson Email:

32. Chairperson Phone: *

REQUIRED SUPPORT MATERIAL

Support material is required. This must include three to four digital photos of conservation practices on the farm and **at least one high quality picture of the farmer and/or the farm family**. Other documentation could include examples of conservation management practices such as articles, photos, etc. These can be emailed to IASWCD (amy-work@iaswcd.org) and must be received by 5 pm on March 31, 2026. The applicant's name and SWCD name must be clearly marked on all support material. It is the sender's responsibility to verify the material is received.

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