



Call for Applications Missouri 2020



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

Leopold Conservation Award

In his book, *A Sand County Almanac*, renowned conservationist, landowner and scientist Aldo Leopold wrote about the concept of a land ethic; the idea that humans have a moral responsibility to the natural world.

Sand County Foundation proudly presents the Leopold Conservation Award to farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who express their land ethic by improving soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land.

Leopold's idea of a land ethic is alive and well in the growing movement of America's farmers, ranchers and foresters

who simultaneously achieve economic and environmental success. The stories of Leopold Conservation Award recipients inspire other landowners, and inform consumers about the benefits of conservation-minded farming and ranching such as clean water, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Each award recipient receives \$10,000 and a crystal award. Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award program in more than 20 states in partnership with local agriculture, conservation, business, educational government and philanthropic interests.

Leopold Conservation Award

2020 Call for Applications

If you, or someone you know, is a Missouri landowner who is committed to land management practices that increase conservation, we invite your application for the Leopold Conservation Award.

Please provide the following information:

Nominee: Name, address, phone, email, website, type of agricultural operation

Nominator (if different): Name, address phone, email

Please provide responses to the following. Limit each response to under 1,000 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.

Additional information. Describe any other relevant accomplishments and/or challenges. 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.

Where applicable, indicate the local, state and federal agencies and partner organizations involved with the nominee's conservation practices.

Nominations must be typed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper. Please paper clip/binder clip (do not staple) your document, for copying purposes. If you wish, include supporting materials like news clippings, photos and maps, but do not send DVDs or videos. Please indicate if you would like the materials returned.

Please have the nominee 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 may 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.

Applications can be submitted online at <http://mofarmerscare.com/lca> or mailed to:

Missouri Farmers Care
c/o Kari Asbury
4481 Brown Station Road
Columbia, MO 65202

 **Application Deadline: June 30, 2020**

For further information, please see the Leopold Conservation Award website:

www.leopoldconservationaward.org

The Missouri award is presented and sponsored by:



MFA, Inc.

Missouri Cattlemen's Association

Missouri Corn Merchandising Council

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives

Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program

McDonald's

The Nature Conservancy