



## Call for Applications Missouri 2021

A photograph showing a man and a young child in a field of young corn plants. The man, wearing a brown jacket and a tan cap, is kneeling and holding a small object in his hand, possibly a seedling. The child, wearing a brown jacket and a dark cap, is also kneeling and looking at the object. The field is green with rows of young corn plants. The background shows a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

*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 2021

**Application Deadline: June 30, 2021**

**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:

Name of Nominator, if different from nominee:

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

**Please address the five criteria, and limit each response to 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.

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 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 Foundation  
c/o Kari Asbury  
19 Kipling Way #19A  
Columbia, MO 65201

**For further information, please see the Leopold Conservation Award website: [www.leopoldconservationaward.org](http://www.leopoldconservationaward.org)**

The Missouri award is presented and sponsored by:



Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives

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