



Missouri Farmers Care *Missouri Agriculture Stewardship Award*

The Missouri Agriculture Stewardship Award recognizes the high bar set in Missouri agriculture for the careful and responsible management of the land, natural resources, and animals entrusted to the care of Missouri farmers and ranchers. Ninety three percent of Missouri land is held by private landowners, with 27 million acres managed as farms and ranches. Missouri farmers take seriously our role in ensuring natural resources are managed so that they are left in better condition for the generations that follow.

Missouri Farmers Care is seeking award applicants who demonstrate the best of innovation, stewardship and diligence in their land management decisions. This prestigious award recognizes the best of the best in production stewardship and, in doing so, inspires adoption of innovative management across Missouri agriculture.

The Missouri Agricultural Stewardship award will be presented to one farm or ranch family at Missouri agricultural and natural resource conferences. Recipients are extended invitations throughout the year to speak on panels and present at conferences to share experiences with fellow producers. Award recipients will host an on-farm tour at a time of their choosing and receive a farm sign recognizing the award and a \$5,000 honorarium.





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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit an application, up to three letters of recommendation, and the following information to Missouri Farmers Care at <https://mofarmerscare.com/agstewardshipaward/> no later than June 30, 2026.

Contact Information: Name, name of farm/ranch business (if applicable), address, email address, phone number, primary county of operation, and website (if applicable).

Background Information

- Number of acres under management (no minimum or maximum acreage required)
- A sentence describing your operation (ex., dairy farm with cash crops; cow/calf beef operation; integrated forestry with focus on pulp wood production)
- Local, state and federal agencies or partner organizations involved with stewardship practices.
- Which, if any, federal or state conservation programs are utilized in the operation (e.g., EQIP, CSP, CRP, N340, etc.)
- Primary farm advisors the farm works with (e.g., crop consultants, Extension agent)
- Please list all organizations that advocate within the agricultural, conservation and stewardship or environmental fields of which you are a member, partner, or affiliate.

Essay responses describing the following with a limit of 1,500 words total.

- Implementation of voluntary agricultural stewardship practices
- Collaboration with agriculture stewardship and conservation partners
- Innovation and continual improvement
- Leadership and community involvement
- Outreach and education (ex., hosting field days, sharing about practices, farm website, or participation in a commodity leadership program)

Questions? Visit www.mofarmerscare.com/agstewardshipaward for more information. Or reach out to Missouri Farmers Care Executive Director Ashley McCarty at ashley@mofarmerscare.com or 660-341-8955.

Application deadline is June 30, 2026.



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Evaluation Criteria

5 points for each of the following responses:

1. Relevancy of operation to setting an example across Missouri agriculture. (ex., dairy farm with cash crops; cow/calf beef operation; integrated forestry with focus on pulp wood production).
2. Local, state and federal agencies or partner organizations involved with stewardship practices.
3. Please list all organizations that advocate within the agricultural, conservation and stewardship or environmental fields of which you are a member, partner, or affiliate.

15 points for each of the following responses:

1. Implementation of voluntary agricultural stewardship practices
2. Collaboration with agriculture stewardship and conservation partners
3. Innovation and continual improvement
4. Leadership and community involvement
5. Outreach and education (ex., hosting field days, sharing about practices, farm website, participation in a commodity leadership program)



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The 2026 Missouri Agricultural Stewardship award will be presented to a farm or ranch family in November of 2025. Award recipients will host an on-farm tour at a time of their choosing and receive a farm sign recognizing the award and a \$5,000 honorarium.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit an application, up to three letters of recommendation, and the following information to Missouri Farmers Care at <https://mofarmerscare.com/missouri-agriculture-stewardship-award/> no later than June 30, 2026.

Questions? Visit www.mofarmerscare.com/agstewardshipaward for more information. Or reach out to Missouri Farmers Care Executive Director Ashley McCarty at ashley@mofarmrescare.com or 660-341-8955.

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