

## **Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Environmental Stewardship Award**

### **Purpose:**

To recognize outstanding environmental stewardship efforts by Farm Bureau Young Farmers and to increase public awareness of the agricultural community's commitment to environmental stewardship by publicizing winners' accomplishments, while encouraging environmental preservation and conservation practices on farms.

### **Eligibility:**

Young Farmers who

- were nominated for this award using an approved nomination form
- are Farm Bureau members in good standing with their county Farm Bureau and between the ages of 18 and 35 years. (full-time or part-time farmers are included)
- have evaluated the potential environmental effects of practices, structures and conditions on their farm.
- have a plan to deal with significant environmental/conservation problems and opportunities.
- have shown significant progress in implementing their plan over two to four years or longer.
- have proven results from the environmental/conservation practices they have implemented in their operation.
- have not been a past winner of the Environmental Stewardship Award.
- submit a completed Environmental Stewardship application by April 15, 2009.

### **Procedure:**

Nominations must be received by February 28<sup>th</sup> and nominees must have received an official Young Farmers certificate for their 2009 nomination.

Nominees may use any local resources in filling out the application including: County Extension Service, Farm Service Agency, Soil and Water Conservation District, agribusiness consultants, etc. The completed application must be received by VFB W&YF Department by April 15, 2009 as indicated on the application entry form.

All applicants will be notified of standings by May 31<sup>st</sup> and on-farm visits will be scheduled for finalists in June. Three top finalists will receive an expense paid trip to be recognized during the Young Farmers Awards Breakfast at the VFB Convention in late November when the state winner and runners up will be announced.

### **Awards: (subject to change)**

The state winner and runners-up will be presented with a Young Farmers Environmental Stewardship sign suitable for outdoor display at the farm entrance or similar location and the state winner will win a trip to the VFB Young Farmers Winter Expo in February 2010. The state winner and runners-up also receive cash awards courtesy of Bayer Crop Science and a personalized plaque to commemorate the award.

## ***VFB Young Farmers Environmental Stewardship Award***

### **Evaluation:**

Judges will be chosen from a variety of backgrounds and asked to use the following guidelines when evaluating applications.

1. Total farm assessment and identifying problem areas for environmental concerns. Up to 20 points.
2. Development of a feasible, comprehensive plan to address identified problems and plan implementation, including actions to date and a logical plan for future actions. Up to 30 points
3. Proven results of actions taken, including effects on the environment both on and off the farm, if possible and impacts on the farm business, if any. Up to 30 points
4. Participation in conservation programs such as CRP, wetlands, etc., voluntary efforts in environmental protection and working with other organizations to promote environmental stewardship by showing those efforts on your farm. (Soil and Water Conservation Districts, FFA, 4-H, county Farm Bureau; rural development committees, etc.) Up to 20 points

Total possible judging is 100 points.

### **Examples:**

Activities and impacts might include some of the following, but please keep in mind that this list is not all encompassing. Many other actions or impacts may be appropriate for a particular farm operation.

Conservation tillage	Contouring
Terracing	Debris basins
Vegetative waterways	Filter strips
Riparian Management	Alternative watering facilities
Winter cover crops	Fencing out of waterways
Critical area treatment	Forestry management
Abandoned well closure	Wellhead protection
Fuel storage facilities	Pesticide &/or fertilizer facilities & use
Septic system management	Hazardous waste handling & management
Waste management or reduction	Oder control
Manure management	Water quality improvement
Energy conservation/production	Timber stand improvement
Recycling	Container management/disposal
Reduced soil loss programs	Wildlife/Fish habitat improvement
Pollution prevention	Field Day host
Air quality improvements	Other education/outreach efforts
Sensitive area protection	

**VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU  
YOUNG FARMERS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD  
Entry form**

NOTE: Return to Virginia Farm Bureau, Attn: W&YF Dept. P. O. Box 27552, Richmond, VA 23261. This application must be typed or completed on a word processor. The application must be postmarked by or prior to *April 15, 2009*. – *Application can be e-mailed to ron.saacke@vafb.com, however, signed entry form must also be received by the deadline.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Children name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ & Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant(s)' Information:	Applicant's Name:	Spouse's Name:
<i>1) Date of Birth: (must be 18 to 35 years on 1/31/2010)</i>		
<i>2) Highest Grade or Degree of schooling completed:</i>		
<i>3) College Major:</i>		
<i>4) Short courses or other specialized study:</i>		

Please give a short (3-5) line biography: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We hereby certify that the information on the attached application and entry forms to be an accurate and true statement, to the best of our ability.

\_\_\_\_\_

*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Spouse (if applying as a couple)*

*I hereby certify that the above named applicant is a \_\_\_\_\_ County Farm Bureau member in good standing.*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_

*County Farm Bureau President/Secretary*

## Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Environmental Stewardship Application

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

(must be submitted with an official entry form, including personal and contact information)

**Individual contributions to the farming operation (as a % of the total farming operation):**

Land \_\_\_\_\_ Capitol \_\_\_\_\_ Equipment \_\_\_\_\_ Labor \_\_\_\_\_ Management \_\_\_\_\_

1. State below or show on a separate page your completed evaluation of the potential environmental concerns or areas that need to be addressed in your development of a conservation plan on your farm.
2. State below, or show on a separate page, your plan and significant progress in implementing your plans over short and long term. Please include any statistical data to show that your conservation practices have aided in increased efficiency or production on the farm (Examples: Yield increase, decreased cost to operate, and/or Soil Loss Calculations).
3. Provide documentation and/or photos to show your environmental progress, improvements and/or changes in your farm operation and the results of your actions for the environment/wildlife, etc. (can include forms used with FSA, Soil & Water Conservation District, agribusiness consultants or Extension programs) No more than 10 pages, please.
4. Provide letters of accommodations, recommendation or recognition received for your environmental/conservation stewardship efforts. (County Extension Agent, Soil & Water Conservation District, Farm Service Agency, Environmental or Agricultural Organizations, DCR Clean Water Farm award, local papers, etc.)
5. Provide news clippings, photos of events or other recognition for your educational efforts in promoting environmental/conservation stewardship on your farm, in your community, county or statewide.