



Call for Applications Nebraska 2017

Presented by
Sand County Foundation
in partnership with Nebraska Cattlemen,
Nebraska Environmental Trust *and* Cargill

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 foresters who do well by their land and do well for their land.

Sand County Foundation proudly presents its Leopold Conservation Award to a private landowner who exemplifies the spirit of this emerging land ethic - an individual or a family dedicated to leaving their land better than how they found it.

In Nebraska, Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award in partnership with the Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Environmental Trust and Cargill. The Leopold Conservation Award recipient receives an Aldo Leopold crystal and \$10,000.

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 can and do play in conservation success.

Leopold Conservation Award 2017 Call for Applications

Applications

If you, or someone you know, is a Nebraska 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

Each response must be clearly numbered and limited to 1,000 words. Nominations must be typed on 8 ½ X 11 inch paper. Please paper clip/binder clip (do not staple) your document, for copying purposes. If you wish, include supporting materials (news clippings, photos, maps, etc.) Do not send DVDs or videos. Please indicate if you would like the materials returned.

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

1. **Conservation Ethic** – Describe how the nominee has voluntarily exceeded the minimum obligations of regulation to enhance and conserve natural resources.
2. **Ecological Community** – Describe how the nominee's agricultural operation works with natural systems (soil, water, plants & wildlife, etc.). Describe how this benefits others.
3. **Innovation & Adaptability** – Describe how the nominee has taken risks by utilizing or experimenting with new techniques to adapt to changing demands and threats (consumers, markets, weather, regulations, etc.).
4. **Resilience** – Describe the business and conservation methods used by the nominee to make the operation productive into the future.
5. **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.
6. **Additional information.** Describe any other relevant accomplishments and/or challenges.
7. **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 may be produced featuring my agricultural operation, which will require my participation.

All materials must be mailed to:

**Leopold Conservation Award
c/o Nebraska Cattlemen
1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 101
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2833**

The Nebraska award is sponsored by:



Farm Credit Services of America

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Nature Conservancy
Nebraska Audubon Society

Nebraska Land Trust

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Nebraska Association of Resource Districts Foundation

Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

Sandhills Task Force

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association

World Wildlife Fund



Application Deadline: February 28, 2017

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

www.leopoldconservationaward.org

