



**NOMINATION FOR 2025
COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
(CARES) AWARD**

BACKGROUND

Florida Farm Bureau Federation's CARES program recognizes progressive farmers and ranchers who demonstrate exemplary efforts in protecting Florida's natural resources. Since 2001, the CARES program has publicly recognized more than 900 agriculturalists by highlighting their positive contributions to sustainability. By awarding each farm or ranch with a customized 'This Farm CARES' sign, CARES recipients demonstrate to the general public their commitment to protecting Florida's beauty and natural resources for future generations.

OVERVIEW

The CARES Award selection process begins with a nomination form. Incomplete nomination forms will not be considered. This is a critical step in ensuring that Florida Farm Bureau recognizes CARES recipients for their environmental stewardship. This form can be used to nominate your own farm/ranch or that of a colleague.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES TO BE CONSIDERED

The nominee's Best Management Practices (BMPs)/conservation program must be in the maintenance-phase where evidence of exemplary conservation practices are observed and then verified by the coordinating agency (i.e., [Florida Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Water Management Districts](#)). The nominee must be enrolled in a program for a minimum of **two (2)** years prior to being nominated. The farm must demonstrate one or more of the following practices for eligibility:

WATER QUALITY

- Preserve or improve water quality within or adjacent to an agricultural operation

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

- Reduce soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and water consumption; and enhance water recharge

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- Implement practices which prove to positively impact natural resources, such as providing wildlife habitat

PESTICIDE/NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- Use pesticides/nutrients responsibly, maximizing benefits and minimizing potential adverse environmental effects

WASTE MANAGEMENT/RECYCLING

- Reduce waste by recycling agricultural by-products and waste products on site

NOMINATION FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT IN ITS ENTIRETY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A CARES AWARD.

I. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINATOR

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
Job Title/Company: Click or tap here to enter text.
Affiliation to Nominee: Click or tap here to enter text.
Mailing Address: Click or tap here to enter text.
State: Click or tap here to enter text.
Zip: Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text.
Email Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

II. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINEE

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
Farm/Ranch/Corporate Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
Role/Title on the Farm/Ranch/Business:
Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text.
Email Address: Click or tap here to enter text.
Mailing Address: Click or tap here to enter text.
City: Click or tap here to enter text.
State: Click or tap here to enter text.
Zip: Click or tap here to enter text.
Physical Farm/Ranch Address (if different from mailing): Click or tap here to enter text.
City: Click or tap here to enter text.
State: Click or tap here to enter text.
Zip: Click or tap here to enter text.
Business website (put N/A if not applicable): Click or tap here to enter text.
Total number of people involved in the business: Click or tap here to enter text.
Number of years business has been in operation: Click or tap here to enter text.
What commodities are produced by this business?
How many acres of this business are involved in natural resource protection efforts? Click or tap here to enter text.

III. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS

Provide a detailed description of the business in 500 words **or less** for each criterion below.

1. Environmental Benefits

Detail the environmental benefits of the business, how it conserves, protects or restores resources, mitigates negative impacts and improves environmental quality.

2. BMPs Implemented

Detail the producer's participation in best management practices and/or other conservation practices/programs implemented. Be sure to include the history of the

producer's involvement in BMPs/conservation projects and how they have worked to continuously build upon each one.

3.Economic Viability

Detail how the BMP/conservation program benefits the business, and how it can be sustained within a viable agricultural operation. Compare net costs with net savings or benefits.

4.Innovation/ Leadership

Explain how the business uses new methods, technologies and/or a new combination or application of existing approaches or technologies. Indicate any participation in research and/or community educational program(s) promoting natural resource protection or the use of these practices.

Click or tap here to enter text.

IV.QUOTES FROM NOMINEE

i. In 100 words or less, have the nominee explain what environmental stewardship means to them and why do they place such significance on environmental protection.

ii.In 100 words or less, have the nominee explain which environmental issue(s) impacts their business the most and how do they work to protect the natural resources involved?

Click or tap here to enter text.

V.LETTER OF COMPLIANCE

The nominee's coordinating agency (i.e. FDACS, NRCS, WMD, etc.) must submit a letter of compliance using the agency's letterhead. This letter should detail the nominee's implemented Best Management Practices and/or conservation program as well as the success and results of their actions taken. This letter should detail the date of the most current site visit verifying implementation and/or compliance record. The letter must be signed by the agency staff member who has worked with the farm/ranch and include the farm's Notice of Intent (NOI).

VI.SUPPORT MATERIALS

Please include the following additional information as support material to complete the nomination:

i.Two letters of recommendation. These letters may be from local officials/staff, fellow agricultural producers, Extension Agents, county Farm Bureau leadership, technical consultants, association representatives or others familiar with the business. The typed letter should detail the representative's contact information,

involvement with the business and his/ her knowledge of its history and success in 1,000 words or less.

Checklist for 2025 CARES Award Nomination

This checklist is required in order for the nomination to be accepted, reviewed and considered for a CARES award. Nominators will be contacted if any items or information is missing. Failure to provide missing items prior to the deadline results in an incomplete nomination.

Completed nomination form

Letter of verification from agency representative with date of last site visit and implementation verification (IV) site visit number (if applicable)

Letter of recommendation #1

Letter of recommendation #2

As the nominator, I confirm that the information provided regarding the nominee has been given with their permission and serves to portray the nominee with the utmost honesty and integrity. My signature also permits Florida Farm Bureau Federation to use any photos and information as part of the producer's CARES recognition, if selected. Lastly, I understand that Florida Farm Bureau Federation will never disclose any personal information about the nominator or nominee for any reason other than for the use of a CARES recognition.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature of Nominator

Click or tap here to enter text.

Nominator's Title & Organization

Click or tap here to enter text. **Date**

Completed nomination forms must be submitted online at thisfarmcares.org/nominate.