



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP  
AWARD**



**2026  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP  
AWARD**

**NOMINATION PACKET**



# AWARD PROGRAM

For centuries, cattle producers have had a personal relationship with the nation's land and resources. They have assumed the responsibilities and risks of investing their lives to protect and conserve the environment. Producers depend on the land and its resources for their livelihood. Therefore, good management practices ensures their well-being and the longevity of their operation for future generations.

Cattle producers, as individuals and as an industry, are actively working to protect and improve the environment because they know environmental stewardship and good business go hand-in-hand.

Since 1991, the Environmental Stewardship Award annually recognizes outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of U.S. cattle producers. Regional and national award winners have been commended for their commitment to protecting the environment and improving fish and wildlife habitats while operating profitable cattle operations.

Environmental Stewardship Award winners share a common desire for leaving the land in better condition than they found it in hopes of inspiring the next generation of land stewards. While the program highlights stewardship, it also

provides fellow cattle producers with examples and ideas of management practices, which may be useful on their own farming and ranch operations.

The Environmental Stewardship Award is an initiative of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Cattlemen's Foundation and is funded by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Corteva Agriscience, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Award winners are selected annually by a committee of representatives from universities, conservation organizations, cattle producers, federal and state agencies. For guidance, the judges consider the management of water, wildlife, vegetation, air, and soil, along with leadership abilities and the sustainability of the business as a whole.

Nominations can be submitted by any organization, group or individual on behalf of a U.S. cattle producer. In the past, nominations have been submitted by a diverse mix of organizations. A partial list includes: NRCS, Society for Range Management, state game and parks services, state extension services, universities, wildlife organizations, and livestock groups.

## AWARD TIMELINE AND EVENTS

### APPLICATIONS DUE: FEBRUARY 16, 2026

- **March/April 2026:** The Selection Committee meets to determine the 2026 regional winners. These winners are personally notified shortly thereafter but are not publicly announced.
- **May 2026:** The video crew begins to visit each of the 2026 regional winners' operations.
- **July 2026:** All regional winners from 2026 are expected to attend the 2026 Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting in Denver, CO. Travel and registration will be paid for by the Environmental Stewardship Award for two people.
- **February 2027:** All regional winners from 2026 are expected to attend the 2027 Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville, TN. Travel and registration will be paid for by the Environmental Stewardship Award for two people.



*"Caretakers of the Land" bronze gifted to National winner.*



## APPLICATION GUIDE

### YOUR 2026 AWARD APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

*(Sections I-IV should not exceed 12 pages total)*

#### SECTION I – HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS AND ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Please identify the name of the business, the individual(s) to be recognized, address, primary contact, website, phone/fax/ email and a map indicating where the operation is located within the state. This section should provide a brief description of the operation's history, business model and ecological setting. What sector(s) of the cattle industry are primary (cow/calf, stocker, etc.)? What other enterprises are associated with the cattle operation? What are the primary ecological features of the landscape (e.g. notable watersheds, geology, topography, climatic zones, water bodies, dominant wildlife species, urban/suburban interfaces and the like)? What natural resources (e.g. mining, hunting/fishing, oil/gas, timber) contribute significantly to the operation's revenue streams? How big are the parcels of land? How much land is owned, leased (federal or otherwise)? How many beef units are raised on the operation? What is the operation's history of ownership and business structure?

#### SECTION II – TELL THE STORY: SUSTAINABILITY ON THE GROUND

This is the most important section of the application. It should present—in a logical, systematic way—the form that “sustainability” takes in the operation's unique ecological, economic, social and regulatory settings. What are the applicants trying to achieve and why? How successful have they been? To what, as it relates to their cattle operation, do they owe their success? The suggested outline that follows is intended to help the nominator organize their presentation of the relevant information in a way that embodies the candidate's thoughtful, coherent, practical strategy for achieving long-term sustainability as it relates to their cattle operations.

#### AREAS OF FOCUS:

##### Regulatory Context/Setting — Federal, State and/or Municipal Requirements

Are there specific regulatory requirements that apply to the operations as a whole, or any of its significant components? Examples would include NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) or state water permits, endangered-species limitations, state-designated water-quality stream segments, TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads), air-pollution non-attainment status and the like. Identify them and explain how they affect the operation's strategic objectives.

##### Special Challenges and/or Opportunities

What are the specific challenges and opportunities that the landscape poses for the beef operation and its viability? Examples of resource challenges and opportunities might include groundwater or surface water supply and quality; riparian restoration; native plants, fish and wildlife; invasive species; erodible soils; use of recycled materials; innovations created to protect or enhance natural resources; encroaching land development; reclamation needs; etc. How do these conditions affect the range of tactics, strategies and financial resources that are available to the candidate? What is required to protect or enhance the ranch's environmental conditions and natural resources?

##### Environmental, Economic, Resource-Management, and Sustainability Goals

In consideration of the beef operation's ecological and regulatory settings, unique environmental or natural resource challenges, and special environmental opportunities, what are the candidate's primary goals?

Environmental and resource-conservation goals must be included here, but economic goals that play a vital role in making the environmental goals a practical possibility should also be described.

##### Partnerships, Strategies, Tactics and Practices

What did the candidate do to pursue the goals outlined in the previous section? Did the candidate enter into any substantial partnerships or land-management arrangements? Did the candidate enter into any cost-share or incentive programs with agencies or foundations? What educational and/or technical assistance resources did the candidate draw upon for help? What specific practices, structure, and/or management changes did the candidate put in place (e.g. grazing practices, erosion controls, pest management, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, riparian restoration, etc.) that helped to achieve the operation's sustainability goals?

##### Outcomes and Accomplishments—Benchmarks, Data, Before/After Images, Documenting Success

To the greatest extent possible, document the success the operation has had in achieving its sustainability goals. Are there any measurable results? For example, has water or air quality improved? Have endangered-species populations rebounded? Has wildlife harvest, quality, or diversity improved? Does the operation use less (energy, water, imported nutrients) per unit at marketed beef? Are profit margins improving? If appropriate and credible, include any monitoring data, research data, survey data, or photographic evidence that clearly illustrates the operation's progress toward achieving its sustainable objectives.



# APPLICATION GUIDE

### SECTION III – SHARING YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STORY (200 words maximum)

This is an opportunity to put environmental sustainability in terms that the consuming public will understand and appreciate. What is unique about the operations’s strategies, tactics or successes that will appeal to the average consumer’s understanding of sustainable beef production? Why should anyone care what the candidate is doing to protect and enhance the environment and natural resources in the surrounding landscape?

### SECTION IV – LEADERSHIP IN CONSERVATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND THE INDUSTRY

Regional and national winners will become spokespeople for the beef industry, carrying forth the message that cattle producers are committed to good stewardship of the land and to the principles of long-term sustainability. How has the candidate demonstrated the drive and the ability to communicate that message to a sometimes skeptical public? What leadership has the candidate demonstrated that illustrates an ability to persuade fellow cattle producers to pursue environmental sustainability as a primary business objective? How well would the candidate serve as a spokesperson for the beef industry? How involved is the candidate in the state or national organization?

### SECTION V – LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION/LETTER OF SUPPORT (8 pages maximum)

No more than three letters of recommendation should be included here. These letters should emphasize the nominee’s leadership in conservation, land stewardship and sustainability. Recommendation letters can come from fellow cattle producers, local or state organizations, foundations, national organizations, neighbors, friends, biologists, other conservationists, etc. Each letter should be no longer than two pages.

In addition to recommendation letters, each applicant should submit a nomination letter or letter of support. This letter can be prepared by the individual or organization that nominated the applicant.

### Application Technical Guidelines

There is a 20-page limit for the nomination packet that includes:

- 12 pages for the application
- 2 pages for each letter of recommendation (total of 6 pages)
- 2 pages for the nomination letter.
- Attach signed Statement of Authenticity

Please submit electronically. Your applications will be printed on an in-house color printer.

Electronic applications are preferred and a complete PDF document is suggested with all the pieces compiled in a single document.

Please do not send nominations in notebooks or binders. Please keep your font size at 12 points. A sample of a winning application from previous years can be found online at [www.EnvironmentalStewardship.org](http://www.EnvironmentalStewardship.org).

**Completed application must be emailed to the contact below or postmarked by February 16, 2026 and sent to:**  
**National Cattlemen’s Foundation  
Environmental Stewardship Award  
9110 E. Nichols Ave., Suite 300  
Centennial, CO 80112  
303-850-3378 • [esap@beef.org](mailto:esap@beef.org)**



## NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

### THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Environmental Stewardship Practices, Accomplishments, and Goals
- Local, Regional and National Leadership Activities that Improve Conservation, Stewardship and Perception of the Cattle Industry
- Endorsements from Cattle Groups, Conservation Organizations and/or Government Agencies
- Sustainability of the Operation and Economic Viability

Applications for the 2026 Environmental Stewardship Award are due February 16, 2026. Any individual, group or organization is eligible to nominate one individual/business who raises or feeds cattle. Individuals and families may not nominate themselves. However, we expect nominees will be involved in the preparation of the application.

Past nominees are encouraged to resubmit their application. Previous regional winners may not reapply.

The full nomination application and directions for its completion are enclosed in this packet. Along with the typed application, one nomination letter and three letters of recommendation highlighting the nominee's leadership in conservation are expected. Nominees do not have to be members of NCBA but should support the objectives of their state and national organization. National membership is strongly encouraged.

## PAST WINNERS

- 1991 -	II	Villisca, IA
I	Ridgefield Farm, Inc.	<b>IV</b>
Don Duff	Brasstown, NC	<b>Heritage Beef Cattle Co.</b>
Chavies, KY	III	<b>Joe R. Weatherly</b>
II	Douglas Center Stock	<b>Wheeler, TX</b>
Adams Ranch	Farm	V
Mike Adms	Corning, IA	Sitz Angus Ranch
Fort Piecre, FL	IV	Donna Sitz
III	Nokes Farm, Inc.	Harrison, MT
Littrell Farms	Siloam Springs, AR	VI
Terry Littrell	V	Babbitt Ranches
Thompson, MO	Yamsi Ranch	William Cordasco
IV	Chiloquin, OR	Flagstaff, AZ
Spur Headquarters Ranch	VI	Clarence Mortenson
O.J. Barron, III	Rafter F. Cattle Co., Inc.	Pierre, SD
Spur, TX	San Jon, NM	
<b>V</b>	<b>VII</b>	<b>- 1996 -</b>
<b>Pitchfork Ranch Co.</b>	<b>Smith Ranch Co.</b>	I
<b>Jack Turnell</b>	<b>E. Smith</b>	Mossy Creek Farm, LP
<b>Meeteetse, WY</b>	<b>Wallace, KS</b>	Ernie Reeves
VI	<b>- 1994 -</b>	Mt. Solon, VA
Canyon Creek Ranch	I	II
Robert H. Mackey and Son	Seldom Rest Farms	Holmestead Co.
Alturas, CA	Bruce and Scott Foster	Charles Holmes
VII	Niles, MI	Marion, AL
Grant Country Feeders	II	III
Marc Roth	Rafter T Ranch	Wiese and Sons
Ulysses, KS	Avon Park, FL	Gene Wiese
<b>- 1992 -</b>	III	Manning, IA
I	Gruben Farms	<b>V</b>
Waffle Hill Farm	Summersville, MO	<b>Lee Ranch Co.</b>
Churchville, MD	IV	<b>Robert E. Lee</b>
II	Spade Ranch	<b>Judith Gap, MT</b>
Crescent B Ranch	Lubbock, TX	VI
Punta Gorda, FL	<b>V</b>	Allan Smith Ranch
III	<b>Picabo Livestock Co.</b>	Allan and Shirley Smith
Gerard Farms	<b>Bud N. and Ruth Purdy</b>	Duchesne, UT
Spring Grove, MN	<b>Picabo, ID</b>	VII
<b>IV</b>	VI	Double M Farms Inc.
<b>Mulshoe Ranch LTD</b>	Carrizo Valley Ranch	Dick and Eileen Mercer
<b>Gail, TX</b>	Capitan, NM	Kearney, NE
V	VII	<b>- 1997 -</b>
Smith Six Bar S Ranch	Knobbe Livestock Sales	I
VI	West Point, NE	Triple W Farm
Oak Ranch	<b>- 1995 -</b>	Mark, Edward and Scott
Wilcox, AZ	I	Williams
VII	Antietam Farms	Marion, KY
Reed Hamilton Ranch, Inc.	Sharpsburg, MD	II
Thedford, NE	II	Honeywood Farm
<b>- 1993 -</b>	G.W. Jones and Sons	Edward C. Mitchell
I	Huntsville, AL	Barnesville, GA
Vosburg Farm	III	III
Climax, MI	Oak Creek Farm	Lubben White Oak Farms
	<b>*Bold = National Winner</b>	



# PAST WINNERS

Dave Lubben  
Monticello, IA  
IV  
Dunkin Farms & Rafte D. Corp  
John Dunkin  
Tulsa, OK  
V

**Three Quarter Circle Ranch  
Tony Malmberg  
Lander, WY**

VII  
Vigen Ranch  
Wendell Vigen  
Killdeer, ND

**- 1998 -**

I  
Rally Farms  
Jesse M. Bontecou  
Millbrook, NY  
II

Poplar Hollow Farms, LLC  
Charles Bryson  
Brevard, NC  
III

Greig and Co., Inc  
Joe Greig  
Estherville, IA  
V

**Matador Cattle Co.  
Susan Marxer  
Dillon, MT**

VII  
D. Jones Ranches Ralph Jones  
Midland, SD

**- 1999 -**

I  
Bartlett Island Farm  
David Rockefeller  
Mt. Desert, ME  
II

Lykes Brothers, Inc.  
Michael A. Milicevic  
Lake Placid, FL  
III

Amana Farms, Inc.  
John McGrath  
Amana, IA  
IV

Neill Cattle Co.  
Joe Neill  
Afton, OK  
V

**Anderson Farms & Cattle Co.  
Edwin A. Anderson  
Longmont, CO**

VI  
Blanchard Ranch  
Bob and Terri Blanchard  
Avila Beach, CA  
VII

Rhea Cattle Company, Inc.  
William Rhea  
Arlington, NE

**- 2000 -**

I  
Gregg Ritter  
Glasgow, KY  
II

Gaddis Farms  
Bolton, MS  
III

Triple U Ranch  
Correctionville, IA  
IV

Morgan Cattle Company  
Chickasha, OK  
V

Hanson Livestock, Co.  
Lusk, WY  
VI

Johnson Land and Livestock  
Rush Valley, UT  
VII

Cammack Ranch Supply  
Union Center, SD

**- 2001 -**

I  
Churche's Grove Farm  
Frankfort, KY  
II

Barthle Bros.  
San Antonio, FL  
III

**Iowa River Ranch  
Eldora, IA**

IV  
Holcombe Farms  
Jay, OK  
V

Milesnick Ranch  
Belgrade, MT  
VI

Smith Valley Cattle Feeders/  
Centennial Livestock  
Colinga, CA  
VII

Nagel Cattle Company  
Springfield, SD

**- 2002 -**

I  
Armstrong Farms  
Saxonburg, PA  
II

Wakefield Farms LLC  
Hartwell, GA  
III

Brad Z Ranch  
Guthrie Center, IA  
IV

The Goodson Ranch  
Blackwell, OK  
V

Sieben Livestock Co.  
Helena, MT  
VI

Y Bar D Ranch  
Williams, AZ  
VII

**Kelly Ranch LLC  
North Platte, NE**

**- 2003 -**

I  
Llangollen Farms  
Middleburg, VA  
II

Carlton 2 x 4 Ranch

Arcadia, FL  
III

M and M Cattle Company  
Carthage, MO  
IV

Canyon View Farms  
Geary, OK  
V

Frasier Farms  
Woodrow, CO  
VI

**Work Ranch  
San Miguel, CA**

VII  
Barenthsen Red Angus  
Powers Lake, ND

**- 2004 -**

I  
McElhane Stock Farms  
Hookstown, PA  
II

**Williamson Cattle Co.  
Okeechobee, FL**

III  
White Family Farms  
Estherville, IA  
IV

Chain Land & Cattle Corp.  
Canton, OK  
V

Barthelmess Ranch Corp.  
Malta, MT  
VI

DC Cattle Company LLC  
Globe, AZ  
VII

Roise Ranch  
Powers Lake, ND

**- 2005 -**

I  
Lil' Ponderosa  
Carlisle, PA  
II

**Lightsey Cattle Co.  
Lake Wales, FL**

III  
Faris Farms  
Mount Ayr, IA  
IV

Richards Ranch  
Jacksboro, TX  
V

Sims Cattle Company, LLC  
McFadden, WY  
VI

Prather Ranch  
Fall River Mills, CA  
VII

Gates Angus Ranch  
Coldwater, KS  
- 2006 -

I  
Blight Farms, Inc.  
Albion, MI  
II

Hayston Farms  
Mansfield, GA  
III

Clan Farms, Inc.

Atlantic, IA  
IV

San Pedro Ranch  
San Antonio, TX  
V

**Thaler Land & Livestock Co.  
La Grange, WY**

VI  
Diablo Trust Ranches  
Winslow, AZ  
VII

Brown's Gelbvieh Ranch  
Bismarck, ND

**- 2007 -**

I  
Sunrise Club Calves  
Shipperville, PA  
II

Dee River Ranch  
Aliceville, AL  
III

Oak Knoll Ranch  
Salem, MO  
V

Roaring Springs Ranch  
Frenchglen, OR  
VI

**Yolo Land and Cattle Co.  
Woodland, CA**

VII  
Alexander Ranch  
Sun City, KS

**- 2008 -**

I  
Sennett Farms Cattle Co.  
Waynetown, IN  
II

**Yon Family Farms Inc.  
Ridge Spring, SC**

III  
Guge Family Farms  
Estherville, IA  
IV

Bradley 3 Ranch  
Childress, TX  
V

Veseth Livestock Co.  
Malta, MT  
VI

Babacorami Ranch Co., LLP  
Sonoita, AZ  
VII

Hovde Ranch LLP  
Alexander, ND

**- 2009 -**

I  
Young Cattle Company  
Belmont, OH  
II

Greenview Farms, Inc  
Screven, GA  
III

Eckenfels Farm  
Ste. Genevieve, MO  
IV

Melissa Feeders  
Melissa, TX  
V

Pape Ranches  
Daniel, WY  
VI

**Leavitt Lake Ranches  
Vina, CA**

VII  
Daybreak Ranch  
Highmore, SD

**- 2010 -**

I  
Cleremont Farm, G.P.  
Upperville, VA  
II

Deseret Cattle and Citrus  
St. Cloud, FL  
III

**Couser Cattle Company  
Nevada, IA**

IV  
JA Ranch  
Bowie, TX  
V

Mesa De Maya Inc.  
Branson, CO  
VI

T.N. Ranching Company  
Price, UT  
VII

Sproul Ranch  
Sedan, KS

**- 2011 -**

I  
**Masonic Village Farm  
Elizabethtown, PA**

II  
Daigle Farms  
Ragley, LA  
IV

Matador Ranch  
Matador, TX  
V

M and M Feedlot  
Parma, ID  
VI

Della Ranches  
Grouse Creek, UT  
VII

Center of the Nation Cattle Co.  
Newell, SD

**- 2012 -**

I  
Glenowen Farm, LLC  
Alexandria, VA  
II

Circle Square Ranch  
Ocala, FL  
III

Funk Farms Trust  
Shirley, IL  
IV

**77 Ranch  
Blooming Grove, TX**

V  
Bold Ranch  
Winifred, MT  
VI

Sparrowk Livestock  
Clements, CA

\*Bold = National Winner

# PAST WINNERS

VII  
Slovak Ranch  
Philip, SD

- 2013 -

I  
Mountain Meadows Farm  
Sudbury, VT

II  
Kissimmee Park Properties  
Kissimmee, FL

III  
Bittersweet Acres  
Greenville, IA

IV  
**Frank and Sims Price  
Ranch**  
Sterling City, TX

V  
Padlock Ranch  
Ranchester, WY

VI  
Kualoa Ranch  
O'Ahu, HI

VII  
Switzer Ranch/Calamus  
Outfitters,  
Morgan Ranch  
Burwell, NE

- 2014 -

I  
Sherwood Acres Farm  
LaGrange, KY

II  
Two Rivers Ranch  
Thonotosassa, FL

III  
Nichols Farms LTD  
Bridgewater, IA

IV  
Rocosa Ridge Ranch  
Dallas, TX

V  
Wineinger-Davis Ranch  
Ordway, CO

VI  
Conlan Ranches California  
True Grass Farms  
Valley Ford, CA

VII  
**Rock Hills Ranch**  
Lowry, SD

- 2015 -

I  
Valley View Farms  
Harrisonburg, VA

II  
Bull Hammock Ranch  
Ft. Pierce, FL

III  
Glenn and Bev Rowe  
Ranch  
Lorimor, IA

IV  
Burnett Ranches, LLC  
6666 Ranch  
Guthrie, TX

V  
American Fork Ranch  
Two Dot, MT

VI  
**Maggie Creek Ranch**  
Elko, NV

VII  
Kopriva Angus  
Raymond, SD

- 2016 -

I  
Huntingdon Farms  
Alexandria, PA

III  
Stoney Creek Farm  
Redwood Falls, MN

IV  
Turkey Track Ranch  
Amarillo, TX

V  
Cherry Creek Ranch  
Terry, MT

VI  
Smith Creek Ranch, LTD  
Austin, NV

VII  
**Black Leg Ranch**  
McKenzie, ND

- 2017 -

I  
Rusty & Jessie Thomson  
Blue Lake Farm, LLC  
Sharon, SC

III  
Seth & Etta Smith  
SFI, Inc.  
Nemaha, IA

IV  
Jimmy & Theresa Sterling  
Sterling Cattle Company  
Coahoma, TX

V  
Scott & Jean Johnson  
Flying Diamond Ranch  
Kit Carson, CO

VI  
**Jim O'Haco Cattle Company**  
Winslow, AZ

VII  
Chuck & Deanna Munson  
Munson Angus Farms,  
LLC  
Junction City, KS

- 2018 -

I  
**Thunder View Farms**  
Grahamsville, NY

III  
Landuyt Land & Livestock  
Walnut Grove, MN

IV  
Birdwell & Clark Ranch  
Henrietta, TX

V  
The Hahn Ranch  
Townsend, MT

VI  
Haleakala Ranch Company  
Makawo, HI

- 2019 -

I  
Overhome Farm  
Crozier VA

II  
**Blackbeard's Ranch**  
Myakka City, FL

III  
Didrikson Farms  
Badger, MN

IV  
Killam Duval County Ranch  
Freer, TX

V  
Cundall Ranch  
Glendo, WY

VI  
Ute Creek Cattle Company  
Bueyeros, NM

VII  
Blew Partnership  
Hutchinson, KS

- 2020 -

I  
SK Herefords  
Medina, New York

II  
Southern Cross Farms  
Eupora, Mississippi

III  
Euken-Myers Family  
Lewis, Iowa

IV  
Double C  
Cattle Company  
Springer, Oklahoma

V  
**Beatty Canyon Ranch**  
Kim, Colorado

VI  
Boies Ranch  
Wells, Nevada

VII  
Johnson Farms  
Frankfort, South Dakota

- 2021 -

I  
EZ Acres, LLC  
Homer, NY

II  
Vaughn Farms  
Forsyth, GA

III  
Robbins Land and Cattle  
Scranton, IA

IV  
Dry Creek Ranch  
San Angelo, TX

V  
Joe C King & Sons Ranch  
Winnett, MT

VI  
**JY Ferry & Son, Inc.**  
Corinne, UT

VII  
Blair Brothers Angus  
Ranch  
Vale, SD

- 2022 -

I  
Lamb Farms, Inc.  
Oakfield, NY

II  
**Carter Cattle Company,**  
LLC  
Pintlala, AL

III  
Huth Polled Herefords  
and S&H Livestock  
Enterprises, LLC  
Oakfield, WI

IV  
Parks Ranch  
Goliad County, TX

V  
Mannix Brothers Ranch  
Helmville, MT

VI  
Fulstone Ranches  
Smith, NV

VII  
Jorgensen Land & Cattle  
Partnership  
Ideal, SD

-2023-

I  
Tuck Farms  
Moneta, VA

II  
JB Ranch  
Immokalee, FL

IV  
**G Bar C Ranch**  
Rosston, TX

V  
Tower Rock Ranch  
Mansfield, WA

VI  
Hart Ranch  
Montague, CA

VII  
Bartholomay Kattle  
Kompany  
Sheldon, ND

-2024-

I  
Angus Glen Farms  
Watkins Glen, NY

II  
Kempfer Cattle Company  
Deer Park, FL

III  
Little Timber Farms  
Blackduck, MN

IV  
Blue Ranch  
Dumas, TX

V  
LeValley Ranch  
Hotchkiss, CO

VI  
Cottonwood Ranch  
Wells, NV

VII  
**Downey Ranch -**  
Wamego, KS

- 2025 -

I  
Whispering Hills Farm  
Lawrenceburg, KY

II  
M&D Overstreet Ranch  
Kathleen, FL

III  
Smith Family Farms  
Bankston, IA

IV  
McFaddin Ranch  
Victoria, TX

V  
G&G Livestock and  
Cathey Cattle Company  
Polson, MT

VII  
Wine Glass Ranch  
Imperial, NE

\*Bold = National Winner

# PROGRAM SPONSORS



Natural Resources Conservation Service

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**  
 Since 1935, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has delivered

conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world. Our vision is a world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation. NRCS is helping private landowners improve the health of their operations while protecting our natural resources for the future and ensuring the long-term sustainability of American agriculture. NRCS employees provide sound, science-based on the ground technical assistance tailored to farmers' and ranchers' specific needs. Participation in NRCS conservation programs and initiatives is voluntary. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. For more information visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) • [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)



**CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE**  
 Corteva Agriscience™ has

sponsored the Environmental Stewardship Awards Program for more than 30 years. Corteva, the only pure play agriculture company headquartered in the United States, is the industry leading provider of weed protection solutions. Cattle producers rely on Corteva for best-in-class pasture solutions including DuraCor®, GrazonNext® HL, PastureGard® HL, Remedy® brands, many other herbicides and the first ranch focused digital solution to provide customer decision making tools to control brush, LandVisor™ Advanced Brush Management.

With a dedicated team specializing in Range and Pasture Management, producers get the expertise they need in a partner, leading products, a robust pipeline and superb custom services. Visit [RangeAndPasture.com](http://RangeAndPasture.com) for more information including a complete list of range and pasture solutions.



National Cattlemen's Beef Association

**NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION**

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is the largest national organization representing America's cattle industry. Founded in 1898, NCBA is the industry leader in education, advocating for cattle and beef producers and preserving the industry's heritage and future. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or [membership@beef.org](mailto:membership@beef.org). NCBA promotes common sense and cost-effective practices that can be applied to livestock production to benefit the environment and a healthy bottom line. For more than two decades, NCBA has worked to recognize outstanding stewards of our nation's land, air and water resources through the Environmental Stewardship Award Program. For more information about NCBA please visit [NCBA.org](http://NCBA.org).



National Cattlemen's Foundation

**NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S FOUNDATION**

The National Cattlemen's Foundation advances the future of the beef industry with passion and urgency. The Foundation provides educational opportunities, scholarships, and a home for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Environmental Stewardship Awards Program. For information about the National Cattlemen's Foundation a 501(c)(3) organization, visit [NationalCattlemensFoundation.org](http://NationalCattlemensFoundation.org), call 303-694-0305 or email [ncf@beef.org](mailto:ncf@beef.org).

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APPLICATION

DEADLINE:

**FEBRUARY 16, 2026**