

Commissioner's

# ***Ag-Environmental Leadership Award***

## **Nomination Form**

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

**Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner**





ADAM H. PUTNAM  
COMMISSIONER

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Office of External Affairs

## **NOMINATION FOR THE COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL-ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Phone (850) 488-3022; Fax (850) 617-7744

### **Overview**

The Commissioner's Agricultural-Environmental Leadership Award program annually recognizes Florida agriculturalists who are in the forefront of developing and adopting environmentally innovative farming practices. Since 1994, this program has helped highlight the efforts of the state's growers and ranchers. Publicly acknowledging the efforts of these award winners illuminates Florida agriculture's dedication to preserving the environment and conserving natural resources while helping ensure a continuing supply of food and fiber. The Commissioner's Agricultural-Environmental Leadership Award selection process begins with this nomination form. Nominees are then judged by an independent committee that includes representatives from major agricultural groups, environmental groups and government agencies. This form can be used to nominate your operation or that of a colleague.

### **Environmental Practices to be Considered**

The following environmental practices will be considered in judging the nominations. The nominations may cover one or a combination of the following activities.

1. **Wildlife Protection and Habitat Conservation**  
Provide a safe, viable habitat for wildlife within an agricultural operation.
2. **Pesticide/Nutrient Management**  
Use pesticides/nutrients responsibly, maximizing benefits and minimizing potential adverse environmental effects.
3. **Water Quality**  
Preserve or improve water quality within or adjacent to an agricultural operation.
4. **Soil and Water Conservation**  
Reduce soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and water consumption; and enhance water recharge.
5. **Waste Management/Recycling**  
Reduce waste by recycling agricultural by-products and waste products on site.



## **Supporting Materials**

Please include the following:

1. Completed nomination form
2. Photo of nominee
3. If available, please include photographs, newspaper articles, sample illustrations, and other supporting materials of the nominee's enterprise/program. A video is optional. Do not send any item that must be returned.
4. Three letters of recommendation. These letters may be from local government officials, other growers, technical consultants, association representatives or others familiar with the program. The typed letters should detail the writer's involvement with the enterprise/program and his or her knowledge its history and success.

## **Judging Criteria**

The enterprise/program will be judged according to the following criteria. Explain how the enterprise/program meets each of these criteria. Address each criteria as fully as possible in 250 words or less.

1. **Environmental Benefits (40 percent)**  
Detail the environmental benefits of the enterprise/program, how it conserves, protects or restores resources, mitigates negative impacts and improves environmental quality.
2. **Economic Viability (20 percent)**  
Detail how the enterprise/program benefits the business, and how it can be sustained within a viable agricultural operation. Compare net costs with net savings or benefits.
3. **Ability to Replicate (20 percent)**  
Explain how the enterprise/program can be replicated by other growers. Does the program have applications for many growers or for a specialized few? How widely could the practices be adopted? Does the enterprise/program offer broad benefits to the agriculture industry?
4. **Regulatory vs. Voluntary (10 percent)**  
Indicate whether your program was self-initiated or mandated by federal and/or state law. If your program was mandated, indicate whether you took steps beyond those that were required.
5. **Innovation/Leadership (10 percent)**  
Indicate how the program uses new approaches or technologies, or a new combination or application of existing approaches or technologies. Indicate any participation in research and community educational programs promoting natural resource protection or the use of these practices.

**Send Completed Nomination Form to:**

Commissioner's Ag-Environmental Leadership Awards  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
3125 Conner Blvd., Room 130  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650  
Attention: Agricultural Environmental Services Director

**Submission Deadline**

The deadline for submitting nominations is April 1.