



## 2019 Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNRCSE) is proud to sponsor the 2018 Hispanic Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award. The awards are presented to farmers making exceptional efforts and exhibiting the highest commitment to conserving, enhancing, maintaining, or protecting our natural resources.

This award is open to all small farmers/ranchers. To be eligible for this award, the nominee must meet the NRCS definition for Small Farmer/Rancher. A small farm/ranch is a farm having less than \$250,000 gross receipts annually.

This is an invitation to submit nominations of farmers in your state or area to compete for this honor. The detailed criteria and nomination form are attached for your review. Nominations will be accepted until **May 24, 2019**. Please distribute this information to those interested in nomination recommendations. All nominations will be made through the State Conservationist.

The 2019 NOPHNRCSE Farmer of the Year committee will select the recipient and then inform the respective State Conservationist so that they may begin developing the video, CD, DVD, or high quality Power Point (five-minute maximum) of the selected awardee.

The award recipient will be recognized and their video shown during the NOPHNRCSE training conference, **August 20-24, 2019, in Spokane, WA**. NOPHNRCSE will cover the award recipient's travel, lodging, and meal expenses.

Questions may be directed to Yomarée S. Cortés Díaz at [yomaree.cortesdiaz@nc.usda.gov](mailto:yomaree.cortesdiaz@nc.usda.gov).

## 2019 Farmer/Rancher of the Year Conservation Nomination Form

JUDGING CRITERIA: Complete this form for the 2019 Farmer/Rancher of the Year Conservation nomination. The selection process will include the following criteria. This award is open to all small farmers and ranchers. The selection process will include the criteria listed in the form below and judging criteria on page 3.

Name of Farmer:	State Represented:
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Number of acres in farming operation:	
Main Farming Enterprise:	
Does the farmer/rancher meet the Small Farmer Definition?	
Does the individual have a Natural Resources Conservation / Ag Water Quality / Forest Stewardship Plan?	
Has the individual participated in USDA Programs / State Agency / Local Programs?	
List the conservation practices, both structural and management systems, installed on the agricultural operations represented in /or by this group over the last five years:	
<p>In 300 words or less, explain why this individual should be recognized as the Farmer/Rancher Conservation Award. (Attach additional sheets if necessary)</p>	

Please return completed form and any supporting documentation to Yomarée S. Cortés Díaz at the address listed below:

Yomarée S. Cortés Díaz  
yomaree.cortesdiaz@nc.usda.gov  
Telephone: 336-629-4449 ext.1650

Note: Nominations should be received no later than **May 24, 2019**.

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

## **MAXIMUM POINTS**

### **Conservation on the Farm/Ranch**

**40 points**

- a) Does the landowner have a plan for the entire farm/ranch? If not, what percentage is planned?
- b) Are planned and / or conservation practices consistent with a complete resource management system?
- c) Are operation management and maintenance carried out on a regular basis?
- d) Is soil health being addressed (i.e. cover crops, reduced tillage, mulching, etc)?

### **Impact on the Community**

**20 points**

- a) Do planned and / or applied practices prevent soil and / or chemical runoff from leaving the farm?
- b) Are streams and other water courses adequately buffered?
- c) Is adequate consideration given to air quality?
- d) Does the operation provide produce / products for local use?

### **Conservation Involving Agriculture Leadership**

**20 points**

- a) Does the landowner participate in field days, demonstrations and other educational events.
- b) Does the landowner serve on boards, committees, and other leadership position.
- c) Does the landowner stay current with technology.
- d) Does the landowner transfer ideas to other farmers?

### **Economic Viability**

**20 points**

- a) Is the operation specialized or diversified?
- b) Are any unique or special marketing techniques used?
- c) Does the operation contribute to quality of life of its members?

**TOTAL 100 POINTS**