



Call for Applications New York 2020



Presented by
Sand County Foundation in partnership with
New York State Department of Agriculture
and Markets, American Farmland Trust
and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Photo by Kenneth Keenan on
behalf of American Farmland Trust

Leopold Conservation Award

In his book, *A Sand County Almanac*, renowned conservationist, landowner and scientist Aldo Leopold wrote about the concept of a land ethic; the idea that humans have a moral responsibility to the natural world.

Sand County Foundation proudly presents the Leopold Conservation Award to farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who express their land ethic by improving soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land.

Leopold's idea of a land ethic is alive and well in the growing movement of America's farmers, ranchers and foresters

who simultaneously achieve economic and environmental success. The stories of Leopold Conservation Award recipients inspire other landowners, and inform consumers about the benefits of conservation-minded farming and ranching such as clean water, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Each award recipient receives \$10,000 and a crystal award. Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award program in more than 20 states in partnership with local agriculture, conservation, business, educational government and philanthropic interests.

Leopold Conservation Award

2020 Call for Applications

If you, or someone you know, is a landowner in New York State who is committed to land management practices that increase conservation, we invite your application for the New York Agricultural Environmental Management Leopold Conservation Award.

The New York Agricultural Environmental Management Leopold Conservation Award will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Conservation Ethic** – Describe how the nominee has voluntarily exceeded the minimum obligations of regulation to enhance and conserve natural resources.
2. **Resilience** – Describe the business and conservation methods used by the nominee to make the operation productive into the future.
3. **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.
4. **Innovation and Adaptability** – Describe how the nominee has taken risks by utilizing or experimenting with new techniques to adapt to change (consumers, markets, weather, regulations, etc.).
5. **Ecological Community** – Describe how the nominee's agricultural operation works with natural systems (soil, water, plants and wildlife, etc.). Describe how this benefits others.

Attach three letters of recommendation. At least one should be from a natural resources conservation organization or agency.

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

Apply with your county conservation district office.

Find your county office at:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/soil-water-conservation-district-offices>

Questions? Please contact: Lance Irving at lirving@sandcountyfoundation.org



Farm Credit East



Application Deadline: May 15, 2020

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

www.leopoldconservationaward.org