



## **2012 Governor's Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Award**

### ***Criteria/Application Process***

The Governor's Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Award is an annual award designed to recognize agricultural producers in five districts of the State that are exceptional environmental stewards. This award recognizes producers that have incorporated conservation practices and best management practices into the day-to-day activities of their farming operations that protect and conserve the natural resources of the state. A five-member selection committee comprised of representatives from each region will select a winner from each of the five regions. A Statewide winner will be selected following a tour of each of the operations selected as regional/district winners. At the Eighth Annual Agriculture Week Kick-Off Festivities that will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, Governor Nathan Deal and Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black will recognize all district winners and announce the State winner.

To be considered for this award, applications **must be mailed or electronically submitted** to the Center of Innovation for Agribusiness no later than **Noon, December 16, 2011.**

### **Section 1. Producer Information**

*(Please print or type)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a family farm? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Years in Farming: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members participating in farming operation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

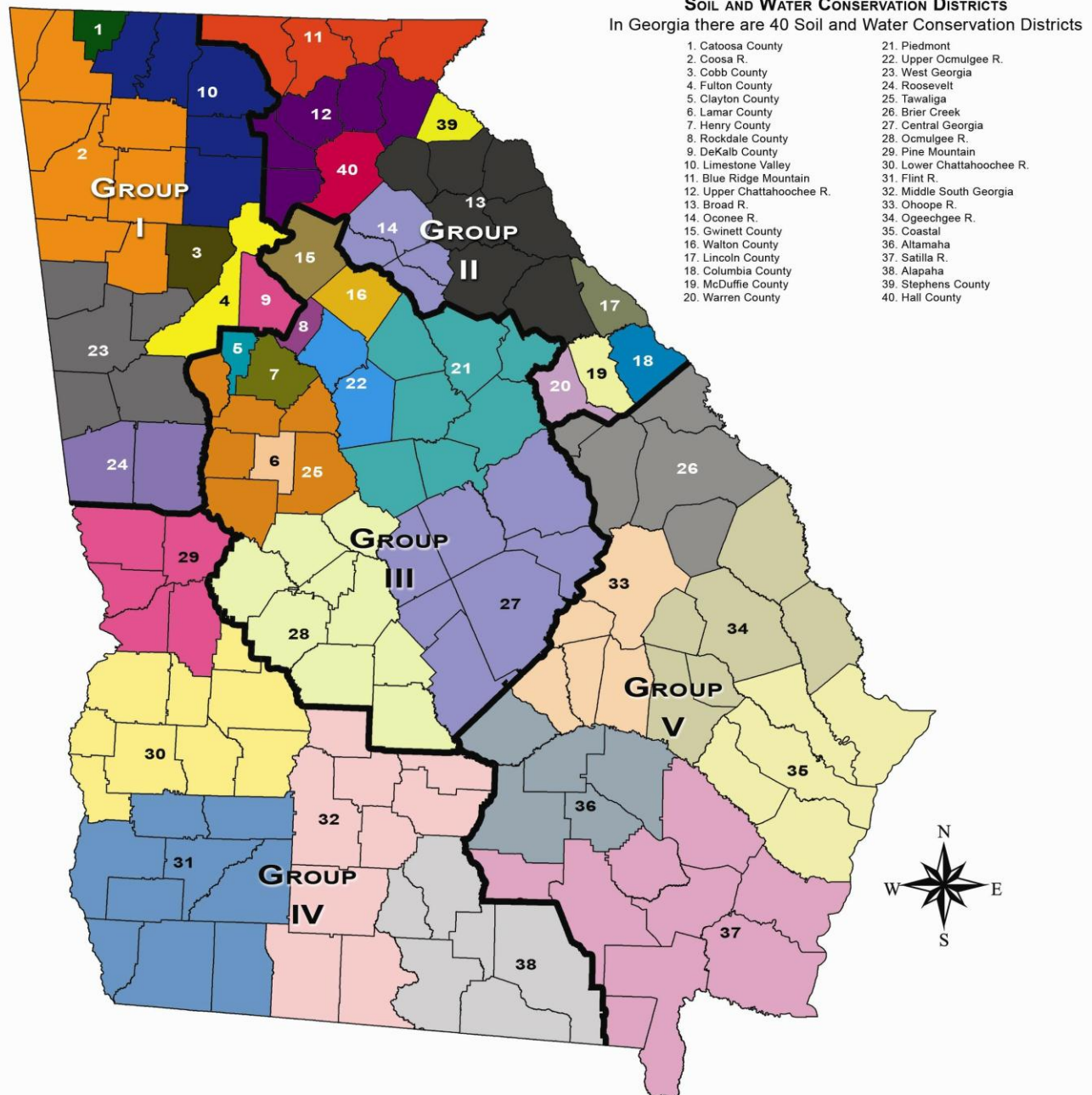
Farm Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (if different from Farm Address): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (**REQUIRED**): \_\_\_\_\_

Soil and Water Conservation District: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Section 2. Background/Community Involvement**

Briefly describe your farming operation, including major crops produced and livestock raised.

Number of Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ cropland \_\_\_\_\_ pasture \_\_\_\_\_ timber \_\_\_\_\_ other  
(*please specify use*)

Please indicate crops grown:

_____ Cotton	_____ Peanuts
_____ Corn	_____ Soybeans
_____ Millet	_____ Wheat
_____ Hay	_____ Other ( <i>please specify</i> )
_____ Timber	_____

Please indicate the number of livestock raised:

_____ Beef Cattle	_____ Dairy Cattle
_____ Sheep	_____ Goats
_____ Horses	_____ Poultry ( <i>please specify number of houses and type of production</i> )
_____ Hay	_____
_____ Other ( <i>please specify</i> )	
_____	

Briefly describe your operation's history and family involvement in the operation. (100 words or less)

Is there anything else you would like to share with us about your farm? (150 words or less)

Please list any association memberships, level of involvement and years of service with any of the following activities/organizations.

Local Boards/Elected Positions

Agriculture Organizations

Community Involvement/Outreach

### **Section 3. Conservation/Environmental Practices**

Please check any of the listed conservation practices you have implemented on your farm.

_____	Heavy Use Area Protection	_____	Nutrient Management
_____	Manure Storage Facility	_____	Pest Management
_____	Animal Mortality Facility	_____	Watering Ramp
_____	Conservation Buffer Strips	_____	Stream Crossing
_____	Filter Strips	_____	Streamside Management Zone (SMZ)
_____	Irrigation Water Management	_____	Recycle and Recapture Water
_____	Use Exclusion	_____	Riparian Buffer
_____	Alternative Water Management	_____	Conservation Tillage
_____	Irrigation Water Management	_____	Other: _____
_____	Irrigation Pit		

Please tell us about any innovative conservation practices or systems that you have installed on your farm (150 words or less)

Does your operation have any of the following?

	Yes	No	N/A
A current, written nutrient management plan (NMP)			
A current, written conservation plan			
A current, written integrated pest management plan (IPM)			
Soil and manure testing records			
Any required, current permits on-site and available			

*Section 3 continues on the next page...*

Please indicate any conservation/industry programs you have participated in that provided you with educational opportunities and/or funding for implementing best management practices on your farm.

____ <b>EQIP</b> ( <i>Environmental Quality Incentives Program</i> )	____ <b>SPB</b> ( <i>Southern Pine Beetle Initiative</i> )
____ <b>WHIP</b> ( <i>Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program</i> )	____ <b>GROWS</b> ( <i>Georgia Recognizes Our</i>
____ <b>CRP</b> ( <i>Conservation Reserve Program</i> )	<i>Woodland Stewards</i> )
____ <b>CSP</b> ( <i>Conservation Security Program</i> )	____ <b>TAG</b> ( <i>Team Agriculture Georgia</i> )
____ <b>FLEP</b> ( <i>Forestland Enhancement Program</i> )	____ <b>FPP</b> ( <i>Farmland Protection Program</i> )
____ <b>FLP</b> ( <i>Forest Legacy Program</i> )	____ <b>WRP</b> ( <i>Wetland Protection Program</i> )
____ <b>FSP</b> ( <i>Forest Stewardship Program</i> )	____ <b>Other:</b> _____

#### **Section 4. Other Information**

List any awards/recognition for your conservation efforts.

**\*NOTE: You will be asked to submit documentation if you are selected as a finalist (copy of award or other documentation).\***

Describe any future plans you may have to continue your conservation efforts on your farm (150 words or less).

## **Section 5. Submitting Your Application**

In your completed application, please include the following:

- Completed application
- Photo of the nominee (optional)

If you are selected as a District Winner, you will be required to submit a completed and current Nutrient Management Plan and Conservation Plan. You may also submit other supporting materials demonstrating your conservation efforts (photographs, newspaper articles, etc). In addition, you will be asked to submit two letters of recommendation. These letters can be from local government officials, other growers, technical consultants, association representatives, technical service providers that you have worked with or others that are familiar with your operation and conservation efforts. These typed letters should explain the recommender's association with and knowledge of the operation and its conservation successes. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected as a District Winner no later than January 20, 2012. Please mail four copies of the above documentation to the Center of Innovation for Agribusiness at the address below no later than Noon February 3, 2012.

## **Section 6: Signature**

The undersigned attest that the information provided in this application form is true and factual to the best of their knowledge. (Typed signature is required.)

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**Applicant/Nominee**

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**Nominator**

(If nominated by someone else)

Submit application to:  
Sarah Cook  
Center of Innovation for Agribusiness  
P.O. Box 7350  
Tifton, GA 31744  
(229) 391-6882  
[smcook@uga.edu](mailto:smcook@uga.edu)

## **Criteria for selecting winners for the Governor's Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Award**

Farmer must be in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations and requirements

Farmer cannot succeed himself in consecutive years as a regional or State winner.

Have the practices implemented on the farm been successful in protecting natural resources in the area? Are the benefits of the implemented practices specific to the site or are their residual benefits to others (i.e. down stream users, neighbors, etc)?

Has the project promoted a coordinated effort between the private landowner and agricultural agencies/organizations?

### **Applicants will be scored according to following categories:**

#### **Environmental Benefits (50%)**

- What impacts can/are being achieved through this producer's conservation efforts? Has the farmer displayed his or her commitment to protecting and conserving Georgia's natural resources as a long-term goal?

#### **Regulatory versus Voluntary Compliance (10%)**

- Has the farmer implemented practices on a voluntary basis or because he or she has been mandated through local, state and federal regulations?

#### **Leadership (10%)**

- Has the producer displayed strong leadership responsibility? How? Has he or she served in any type of position that has proven that he or she is committed to education and outreach with regard to environmental stewardship?

#### **Economic Viability (30%)**

- Are the conservation practices implemented on the producer's operation promoting the sustainability of an environmentally friendly organization? Are the conservation practices on-going (i.e. still functioning at full potential; on a regular maintenance plan or self sustaining)?