

# NEBRASKA FARMER *presents*

## 2027 MASTER FARMER & RANCHER AWARD

*Applications due March 1, 2027*

For the first time since the 1930s, NEBRASKA FARMER is sponsoring a Master Farmer & Rancher Award, honoring farmers and ranchers with outstanding agricultural production skills, who also demonstrate extraordinary dedication to their communities. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional leadership within the Nebraska agricultural community and their local communities.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must farm or ranch in Nebraska, deriving the majority of their income from agricultural production.
- Candidates must have proven agricultural production records, are leaders in their community, and give back to the community in substantive ways.
- Candidates may be individuals, couples or siblings; judging is equally weighted.
- Candidate should be actively engaged in production agriculture.

### Guidelines for Nomination

- Submit completed nomination form by the deadline, March 1, 2027.
- Attach a minimum of 3 letters of support, *including at least one from a neighboring farmer.*
- All digital submissions must include the application and letters of support in a single email.

### Application Notes

- For a couple or siblings, please assume each question pertains to both individuals and answer accordingly.
- All information remains confidential.
- In the event the nominee does not win, the application will be held and re-submitted the following year, for a maximum of three years. Please notify NEBRASKA FARMER if you would like to amend your nomination in subsequent years.

### Judging Committee

- Selection is made by consultation between Nebraska agricultural leaders, including experts in agronomy, livestock and agricultural finance, agricultural research or University authorities, and NEBRASKA FARMER editorial staff.

### Recognition

- Master Farmer & Rancher winners will be recognized at a special awards ceremony, held during Husker Harvest Days in September 2027. Members of the new class will be announced on *nebraskafarmer.com* on Sept. 1 and recognized in the October issue of NEBRASKA FARMER.

### Nominations due March 1, 2027

- Mail nominations:  
Curt Arens  
Editor, Nebraska Farmer  
88664 550 Ave.  
Crofton, NE 68730
- Send digital submissions:  
[curtis.arens@farmprogress.com](mailto:curtis.arens@farmprogress.com)

# 2027 NEBRASKA FARMER Master Farmer & Rancher Award Nomination

## Nominee Information *(Complete as much information as possible)*

|                                                                          |                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Name                                                                     |                                                        |
| Spouse                                                                   |                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                 | This is a joint nomination for both spouses.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                 | This is an individual nomination for the nominee only. |
| Street Address                                                           |                                                        |
| City, State, ZIP Code                                                    |                                                        |
| County                                                                   |                                                        |
| Cell Phone                                                               |                                                        |
| Preferred Phone                                                          |                                                        |
| Does the candidate prefer to be called <b>farmer</b> or <b>rancher</b> ? |                                                        |
| E-Mail Address                                                           |                                                        |
| Age                                                                      |                                                        |
| Farm Name                                                                |                                                        |
| Crops/Livestock                                                          |                                                        |

## Type of nomination:

- ☐ I am nominating myself for this award.
- ☐ I am nominating someone for this award and they know they have been nominated.
- ☐ I am nominating someone for this award and they do not know they have been nominated.

## Nominator Information *(not necessary if nominating yourself)*

|                                              |  |
|----------------------------------------------|--|
| Name                                         |  |
| Organization or Business                     |  |
| Street Address                               |  |
| City, State, ZIP Code                        |  |
| County                                       |  |
| Cell Phone                                   |  |
| Home Phone                                   |  |
| Work Phone                                   |  |
| E-Mail Address                               |  |
| What is your relationship to the nominee(s)? |  |
| How long have you known nominee(s)?          |  |
| Signature                                    |  |

## FARM HISTORY AND MANAGEMENT

1. When and how did candidate(s) begin farming?
2. Describe the scope of the farm operation today.
3. Describe any family involvement or partnerships in the farm operation, and what role each spouse plays in the farm operation. **Include spouse's occupation, if off the farm.**
4. Compare ag operation at start of career to today. Please include total tillable and non-tillable acres.

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Year started farming</b> |  |
| Acres rented                |  |
| Acres owned                 |  |
| Livestock type and number   |  |
| <b>Today</b>                |  |
| Acres rented                |  |
| Acres owned                 |  |
| Livestock type and number   |  |

6. Describe the candidate's record keeping system and approach to financial planning and succession planning. How are financial and production records used in planning?

7. Has the candidate(s) ever derived income from off-farm sources? Please detail the history of off-farm employment, including the year, the percentage of work time spent off the farm, and the percentage of total annual income derived from off-farm employment during that time.

## CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

1. Describe the candidate's crop production practices.

| <u>Crop</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Estimated 5-year average yield</u> |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
|             |              |                                       |
|             |              |                                       |
|             |              |                                       |
|             |              |                                       |
|             |              |                                       |

2. Briefly describe the candidate's crop production practices, such as irrigation, soil tests, tillage, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, fertility and other applicable crop production strategies. Please also address the biggest agronomic challenge on their operation.
3. Describe the candidate's crop marketing strategy.

4. Describe the candidate's livestock production practices.

| <u>Species and operation</u> (ex: Feeder pigs, cow/calf herd, etc) | <u>Scope and size</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                                    |                       |
|                                                                    |                       |
|                                                                    |                       |
|                                                                    |                       |

5. Briefly describe the candidate's livestock production practices, such as animal health measures, pasture management, breeding, waste management, feeding and other applicable production or marketing strategies. Please also address your most significant animal production challenge.

6. How has the candidate adopted and used technology in their farming or ranching operation? What's the most important technological advancement the candidate has implemented on their farm?

7. Please share the candidates' soil and water conservation measures they've implemented on their farm, including how their conservation practices have improved the environment in their community and neighborhood. Describe practices to protect water quality and quantity on their farm.

8. If applicable, describe any specialty crops or livestock or niche production and marketing strategies.

## EDUCATION

Please include highest level of education for the candidate and spouse (if applicable).

Candidate

| <u>Level of Education</u> | <u>Institution</u> | <u>Major</u> | <u>Graduation year</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|
|                           |                    |              |                        |
|                           |                    |              |                        |

Spouse (if applicable)

| <u>Level of Education</u> | <u>Institution</u> | <u>Major</u> | <u>Graduation year</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|
|                           |                    |              |                        |
|                           |                    |              |                        |

## FAMILY

List names and occupations of nominee's children (if married, include spouse's name)

| <u>First and Last Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Education</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Name of Child's Spouse</u> |
|----------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
|                            |            |                  |                   |                               |
|                            |            |                  |                   |                               |
|                            |            |                  |                   |                               |
|                            |            |                  |                   |                               |
|                            |            |                  |                   |                               |

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|

### AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP

List agricultural organizations the candidate(s) has been involved with, such as Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, commodity organizations, livestock groups, co-ops, NRD board, and more. **Note year of involvement**, offices held and community impact. In the case of a joint nomination, please include separate lists for each individual.

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

List non-agricultural organizations the candidate(s) has been involved with, such as schools, government, civic or community organizations, churches and more. **Note year of involvement**, offices held and community impact. In the case of a joint nomination, please include separate lists for each individual.

### HONORS

List any awards or honors bestowed on candidate(s). In the case of a joint nomination, please include separate lists for each individual.

### SUMMARY

Describe three key strengths of this operation.

### NOMINATOR'S STATEMENT

Please describe why you feel this candidate(s) should be honored with this recognition.

### NOMINEE'S STATEMENT

The candidate(s) may attach his or her own additional remarks, which may be helpful to the judges.