

2011 Save Texas Water Blue Legacy Award

Nomination
Packet



Agricultural Award

Presented by Water Conservation Advisory Council

Save Texas Water

Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture

Water Grows Texas

Texas is a vast land with unique resources and industries that sustain our economy and our lives. From the Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley water is the vital natural resource that binds our livelihoods together. In Texas agriculture is an economic engine and the water used for agricultural production brings millions of dollars into the economy every year, creating jobs and income throughout the state.



For decades, the agricultural industry has had a personal relationship with both the land and the water resources of Texas. The industry assumes the responsibility of meeting the needs of future generations while promoting an economically viable agricultural production system. For agricultural producers, water is much more than a tool of the trade.

As individuals and as an industry, agricultural producers, conservation districts and irrigation districts are actively working to protect and conserve water resources because they know that responsible stewardship is a part of good business. It is vital that we conserve water for the future without sacrificing jobs and economic growth today. Conserving water is an investment that benefits all Texans.



What is the Blue Legacy Award?

Though it often goes unrecognized the agriculture industry is actively conserving and efficiently using water through everyday decisions, investments, and practices. Stewardship of our water resources deserves recognition and that is why the Water Conservation Advisory Council created the Blue Legacy Awards. The awards are a way to showcase agricultural producers as effective caretakers of water resources. Through the [Blue Legacy Awards](#) the Council honors these groups whose practices enhance conservation of water while maintaining or improving profitability.

Nominations for the Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture

Any individual, group, agency, association, council or organization may nominate an individual producer, family operation or partnership operation. Individuals, families, or operations may also nominate themselves. Nominations can be submitted in only one category. Winners are selected by an expert selection committee that represents farmers, ranchers, conservation groups, state agencies, and universities. Past nominees are eligible and encouraged to resubmit their nomination form; previous winners may not reapply. The selection committee considers the use of best management practices, innovative technologies, leadership of the producer, and sustainability of business as a whole.

Nomination form:

The full nomination form and directions for its completion are enclosed in this packet.

How does the award benefit agricultural producers?

The Water Conservation Advisory Council will utilize winners' success stories to promote the agricultural industry's efforts in water conservation. **Blue Legacy Award** recognition also promotes the winners themselves as credible spokespersons. Through these winners, the program will generate positive information about water conservation in agriculture as well as encourage others in the industry to improve their water conservation practices. This award sends the message that properly managed water resources is a vital component of sustainable agricultural operations.

Save Texas Water
Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture

Eligibility Criteria

The Water Conservation Advisory Council will recognize agricultural producers who have implemented exemplary water conservation practices. The Blue Legacy Awards are open to any agricultural producer who wants to showcase their water conservation success.

- The operation must be located in Texas
- Achievement must have been made or worked towards in the past 5 yrs

Award Categories

Awards will be given in the following categories:

- *Owner/ Family ~ Crop Producer*
- *Partnership ~ Crop Producer*
- *Owner/ Family ~ Livestock/ Ranching*
- *Partnership ~ Livestock/ Ranching*

Category Winners Receive:

- Prestigious award trophy engraved with the individual's or organization's name
- Acknowledgement (name and logo) in feature articles where possible and on the Water Conservation Advisory Council's website

Selection Process

To ensure independence and integrity, all entries are comprehensively assessed by an independent selection committee.

Helpful tip: The key to a successful nomination form is providing specific examples and providing any additional data or results of implemented conservation practices

How will you be notified of the winning entry?

The selection committee will contact winners by telephone and email during the month of November. Winners will be invited to attend the 2011 Texas Irrigation Expo on Dec 9th in McAllen, TX for presentation of the award. If winners cannot attend the expo the award will be delivered to them.

A completed nomination packet should include all items below:

Required Items:

- Completed Nomination Form(Nominee Profile, Sections I,II, III)
- 2 Photos minimum.

Optional Items:

- Supporting Information – brochures, maps, charts, press clips

Important Dates

Nov 2nd Nomination forms due

Nov 9th Selection committee meets to determine winners. These winners are personally notified shortly thereafter, but are not publically announced

Dec 9th
Winners are publicly announced and honored at the Agricultural Irrigation Expo in McAllen, TX

Nomination Form

Nominee Profile

Self Nomination

Nominating Someone

Nominee Phone:

Nominee Email:

Nominee Mailing Address:

If you are nominating someone please provide us with your contact information.

Phone:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Title of the nominee's Agricultural Operation/ Business Name/ Family Farm Name:

Individuals to be recognized:

Type of farming operation, select only one:

- sole owner/ family farm operation partnership operation

Agricultural Production Type, select the one choice that best represents the primary nature of the nominee's operations.

- Crop Producer ~ production operations such as corn, cotton, grains, vineyards, citrus, vegetables
- Livestock/ Ranching ~ livestock and associated ranching operations such as cattle, poultry, sheep, goats, pork; also includes operations on ranch land set aside for natural resource conservation purposes

Check the Best Management Practices that nominee employs, select all that apply:

- Irrigation Scheduling
- Volumetric Measurement of Irrigation Water Use
- Crop Residue Management and Conservation Tillage
- Furrow Dikes
- Land Leveling
- Contour Farming
- Conversion of Supplemental Irrigated Farmland to Dry-Land Farmland
- Brush Control/Management
- Lining of On-Farm Irrigation Ditches
- Replacement of On-Farm Irrigation Ditches with Pipelines
- Low Pressure Sprinkler Irrigation Systems
- Drip/Micro-Irrigation System
- Gated and Flexible Pipe for Field Water Distribution Systems
- Surge Flow Irrigation for Field Water Distribution Systems
- Lining of District Irrigation Canals
- Replacement of Irrigation District Canals and Lateral Canals with Pipelines
- Tailwater Recovery and Reuse System
- Nursery Production Systems
- Dairy/Feedlot/ Wastewater Management
- Other (specify) _____

The following sections of the nomination form are to be type written. Please provide your written descriptions for the following sections in a format that is a minimum of 2 pages and no more than 12 pages (total of sections I–III). Photos can be mailed or emailed separately.

Section I - Description of Business and Stewardship Practices

- Describe the nature of the business, farm history, and production history of the farm operation.
- Please list or describe the major crops and acreage, number and type of livestock.
- Please describe the water conservation program/activities being submitted for the award. Describe the use of best management practices or innovative practices as they pertain to water quality, water conservation, and water resources.
- List the organizations that the business has utilized or partnered with in environmental or water conservation efforts (e.g. government agencies, conservation groups, individuals, etc.)
- Please include, if possible, measured or estimated savings that demonstrate the success of the program and how those values were obtained.
- Please include a minimum of 2 photos.** Photos may be of equipment, crops, fields, the farm, or the family. You may submit up to a maximum of 10 photos. Photos may be emailed in digital format or you may mail the photos along with your nomination packet. See the last page of this packet for email and mailing address.

Section II – Leadership in conservation within community and industry

- Describe how the nominee demonstrates leadership in water conservation within the community and within the agricultural industry.
- If applicable, describe how the nominee presents a positive image of farming through such things as farm tours, public speaking, community programs, and organizational involvement.
- If applicable, list the nominee’s membership in any conservation groups or initiatives.
- If applicable, list any conservation or agricultural honors or awards the nominee has received.

Section III - Your Conservation Legacy

- Describe why water conservation is important to the nominee.
- Please describe why you think the nominee’s program should be recognized with a Blue Legacy Award.

Optional Items – Supporting Information

- You may include supporting information such as brochures, maps, data charts, press clips etc. These items are not required to complete the nomination packets.

Submission Instructions

You may submit your nomination form electronically by emailing your *word* or *pdf* document to

wcac@twdb.state.tx.us

Or

You may mail in your nomination form as a stapled packet, notebook, or binder

Completed nomination forms must be emailed or postmarked by November 2nd to:

Water Conservation Advisory Council

PO Box 13231

Austin, TX 78711

Photos

Regardless of which format you submit the nomination form you may choose to either mail in hard copies of your photos to the above address or email digital files of your photos to

wcac@twdb.state.tx.us

Questions

Contact Vanessa Escobar, Council Support Staff

512.463.1667

wcac@twdb.state.tx.us