



# Louisiana Master Farmer Program

## 2024 Outstanding Master Farmer Award



The Louisiana Master Farmer Program (LMFP) was initiated in 2001 in a collaborative effort to help agricultural producers voluntarily address resource concerns related to production agriculture. The program involves producers becoming more knowledgeable about environmental stewardship, conservation-based production, and resource management through a three-phase producer certification process. The program uses a comprehensive approach to include classroom instruction, field tour demonstrations where BMPs have been implemented, and the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan through USDA NRCS.

In an effort to reward exemplary commitment to this program and conservation, a Certified Master Farmer will be selected as the **Outstanding Master Farmer** who has realized the environmental and economic benefits from implementing conservation practices and promoted innovative approaches to locally-led conservation. The selected winner will receive a plaque and monetary awards of \$1000 (each) from the Louisiana Land Bank and Gowan Co. and will be recognized at the 2025 Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention. All program partners (the LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association) will be invited to assist in recognizing the winner and presenting this award.

### **Criteria and How to Enter**

A candidate may be nominated by an extension office, conservation district, state agency, federal agency, member of the community, other producers, or self-nominated. The candidate must be a certified Master Farmer for at least one year and meet all requirements of certification to qualify for the 2024 award. All submitted applications must be complete and include a written narrative and a reference/support letter. If additional information is needed for the final selection process, the implemented Resource Management Plan on file may be used (with permission). The candidate's application must be submitted for review by **December 15, 2024**, to the following address (may be scanned and emailed also).

Dr. Donna Gentry, Coordinator  
Louisiana Master Farmer Program  
LSU AgCenter  
4419 Idlewild Road  
Clinton, LA 70722  
Cell: 318.613.9278  
[dsgentry@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dsgentry@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Louisiana Master Farmer Program**  
*2024 Outstanding Master Farmer Award Application*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Date You Were Certified \_\_\_\_\_ Commodities Produced \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the Resource Management Plan criteria that pertain to your farming operation (check all that apply or N/A if not applicable):

1. Nutrient Management
  - a. Soil test every 3 years \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Apply fertilizer based on recommendations \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Properly store and apply nutrients to minimize environmental impact \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Using diverse cropping systems to manage nutrients \_\_\_\_\_
2. Soil/Erosion Management
  - a. Maintain crop residue or cover on land after harvest \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Utilize some form of conservation tillage on crop land \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Utilize rotational grazing on cattle/forage operations \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Maintain buffer zone, such as filter strips or grassed waterways if needed \_\_\_\_\_
3. Weed and Pest Management
  - a. Apply pesticides according to label recommendations \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Use appropriate safety precautions when mixing, loading, and applying pesticides \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Using integrated pest management practices to minimize adverse environmental impact from use of pesticides \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Handle, store, and dispose of pesticides and containers properly \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Calibrate spray equipment on regular basis to minimize over/under applications \_\_\_\_\_
4. General Practices
  - a. Keep accurate records of all pesticide and nutrient applications, we well as cultural practices \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Dispose of used oil, tires, and general farm waste properly \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Utilize advanced technology such as GIS when applicable \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Place non-productive lands in WRP, CRP or other conservation programs \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a narrative explaining your farming operation and how you incorporate BMPs to address resource management concerns. This should include a history of conservation practices, acres and how becoming involved in conservation through the Master Farmer Program and other venues has helped you make conservation decisions in your operation. Please include any efforts to promote BMP implementation and conservation through involvement in conservation programs or activities. And finally, list any awards or recognition you have received for your conservation efforts, as well as through community or organization involvement (i.e. Farm Bureau, Conservation Districts, Ducks Unlimited, etc.). **This narrative is a major part of the evaluation and should include a description of all conservation practices and how they are utilized in the farming operation along with the benefits realized. Extra pages may be added for the narrative as needed.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

