



Award Application

Deadline: Sept. 1, 2026

Top Producer

The **Top Producer Women In Ag Award** will be given to a female producer who is a shining example for her peers. The winner will be an advocate for agriculture and represent an innovative farming or ranching operation.

Entrants are judged on agricultural advocacy (50%), farm business innovation (30%), and industry or community leadership (20%).

To apply, complete the entry form and provide requested attachments. Winners agree to be recognized in articles published in **Hcd'DfcXi Wf** magazine, online and across Farm Journal properties. Any financial information remains confidential unless entrants agree to its release.

Prizes can include:

- A trip for two including hotel accommodations and a flat travel reimbursement stipend to attend the 2027 Top Producer Summit (Feb.15-17, 2027 in Nashville, TN).
- Additional prizes provided by award sponsor(s) which are not affiliated with Farm Journal and will be directly communicated to the winner via sponsor.

Return Entries to:

E-mail Margy Eckelkamp: meckelkamp@farmjournal.com

Farm Journal
c/o Top Producer/Margy Eckelkamp
P.O. Box 410038
Kansas City, MO 64141
Voice: (573) 864-2468

Please complete the following application.

Name _____ Birth date _____ Home phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Office phone _____ Mobile phone _____

E-mail address _____

Type of farming operation (dairy, grain, etc.) _____

Farm name _____

Please list URLs for any of the following platforms you use to promote farming and agriculture:

Twitter: _____ Instagram: _____

Facebook: _____ Blog: _____

Website: _____ Other: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

Percent of income earned from farming _____ Annual gross income from farming _____

Total acres farmed _____ Acres owned _____

Acres rented _____ Acres custom farmed _____

Please list other operators/business partners and their relationship to you.

Name _____ Relationship _____ Full/Part-time _____

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What activities make up your business? Please indicate what percentage of total gross income is represented by each segment of your business.

_____ % Crops (include 2026 acres for each) _____
_____ % Livestock (list number and type of animals marketed per year, i.e. market hogs, feeder pigs, dairy cows milked, fed cattle, feeder cattle, other) _____
_____ % Agribusiness _____
_____ % Non-agribusiness _____

How many employees (below the management level) are involved in your farm/ranch?

Full-time _____ Part-time _____

Business structure: Sole proprietor _____ Partnership _____
Corporation _____ LLC _____

ESSAY QUESTIONS (attach typed responses):

1. Give us a short history of your farm operation.
2. Why did you choose farming as your profession?
3. What is your role with your farm operation? What are your goals for your operation?
4. Describe business innovations that you have developed for your operation in two or more of the following areas: (1) farm finance; (2) family/employee relations; (3) marketing/sales; (4) technology; (5) connecting with consumers; or (5) environment/conservation.
 - a. If applicable, include any documentation that might support your statement (for example, financials, newspaper articles, industry awards).
5. What challenges have you faced and overcome in your operation?
6. Why is it important to be an advocate for farmers and the agriculture industry? Please provide examples of how you advocate for the agricultural industry.
7. Why are you proud to be a female farmer? How have you promoted/encouraged/mentored other females in the industry?
8. Tell us about an important woman who has served as a role model in your life, whether in the agriculture industry or out side of it. What makes them special, and what have you applied to your own life and business based on their example?

Please attach:

- Responses to essay questions above.
- Your current resume (be sure to include your leadership/community involvement)
- Two references letters from an industry peer, lender, business leader, etc. (fill in their contact info below). One reference must be from your CPA or lender and include perspective on your financial progress, business standing, etc.

I grant permission for TOP PRODUCER to contact the following references for information about my farm, including my financial progress. (Please attach letters from references.)

Name _____
Title _____
Address _____

Phone _____
E-mail address _____

Name _____
Title _____
Address _____

Phone _____
E-mail address _____

I certify that the above information is accurate and agree to appear in subsequent publicity of this award, should I win.

Applicant's signature: _____



CONTACT US: If you have any questions, comments or complaints regarding the Contest, please contact Margy Eckelkamp P.O. Box 410038 Kansas City, MO 64141 (email meckelkamp@farmjournal.com; via telephone: (573) 864-2468)