

## What is the River Friendly Farmer Award?

The RFF award was initiated in 1999 as a statewide initiative recognizing farmers who, through good production management, help keep Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams clean. Since then, almost 500 farmers have been publicly honored for their stewardship. To nominate a farmer in your county, or for additional information on the program, contact the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, or your local Soil and Water Conservation District office.



## River Friendly Farmer Award Partners

- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- 92 County SWCDs
- Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

For additional information, contact the IASWCD at 317.692.7325 or visit their Web site at [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org). Click on District Tools / Resources then **IASWCD Awards**. The 2010 RFF award application is due to the IASWCD no later than June 15, 2010.



Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts



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## Indiana's River Friendly Farmer Program



*Giving public recognition to farmers who protect and enhance Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams.*



## RFF Program Goals

**To** publicly recognize and reward farmers who do an excellent job of managing their farms in an economically and environmentally sound way that protects and improves Indiana's soil and water resources for future generations.

**To** publicize and promote best management farming practices that help improve water quality while maintaining and improving the economic viability of Hoosier agriculture.

**To** inform the general public about sound contributions farmers make to protect and improve our soil, water and related natural resources.

**To** further demonstrate the commitment to Indiana natural resources conservation by our award sponsors:

- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the state's 92 county SWCDs; Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.; the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation; Purdue Cooperative Extension Service; and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## How to Participate

The River Friendly Farmer award application is available online at the IASWCD Web site at [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org). Click on *District Tools/ Resources* then *IASWCD*

*Awards* and follow the link to the *RFF award information*. Each county Soil and Water Conservation District may nominate up to two farmers from their county for the River Friendly Farmer Award annually. Complete and return the form to your local SWCD by their deadline. The state deadline for applications is June 15, 2010.

You may locate your county SWCD office on the Association Web site [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org) under *About Us* or contact the IASWCD at [info@iaswcd.org](mailto:info@iaswcd.org) or 317.692.7325. Recipients will be honored in a statewide ceremony in August at the Indiana State Fair.

## Program Criteria

1. Soil loss on all land is at or below tolerable (T) soil loss levels, either by maintaining 30% crop residue or by other appropriate tillage or crop rotation measures.
2. Field soil tested at least once every three years.
3. Fertilizer applied at correct application rates based on soil tests. Realistic yield goals used

in setting fertilizer application rates for crops.

4. Nutrient credits given for manure applied and legumes (i.e. soybeans, alfalfa, clover) used in rotation.
5. Nitrogen best management practices for your region (i.e. N stabilizers/inhibitors for fall or pre-emerge nitrogen applications, side dressed N, no fall N on sandy soils) as recommended by Purdue University.
6. Phosphorous fertilizer banded or incorporated when applied on crop land, or incorporating practices used to keep soluble phosphorus from reaching water sources.
7. Livestock manure utilization part of your farming operation. Fencing used to exclude livestock from sensitive areas. Manure storage facilities that have at least 120 days storage capacity.
8. Livestock facilities that are currently approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) or in the process of being approved.
9. Pesticides and their containers handled, stored and disposed of in accordance with labeled recommendations. Label instructions followed for all applicable water quality restrictions, and use of cultural or other management practices to reduce the volume of chemical controls.
10. Non-cropland areas are managed and/or enhanced in an environmentally appropriate manner.
11. Farm records kept to track inputs and conservation practices.