



Virginia Forage and Grassland Council

2024 Outstanding Forage Producer of the Year Award

\$500 Cash Award

Nomination Form

The Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) wishes to promote and expand the efficient utilization of forages to improve the economic and social well-being of all Virginians and enhance the beauty of the Commonwealth. Each year we recognize an outstanding forage and/or livestock producer in Virginia. This award is presented to an exceptional producer who has implemented innovative forage and grazing management practices leading to enhanced production, forage quality, and profitability, better wildlife habitat, and improved soil conservation and water quality.

Nominee Name:
Nominee Farm Name:
Address, City, State, Zip:
Telephone Number (Home/Office/FAX/Cell):
E-mail Address:
Nominated By:
Address, City, State, Zip:
Telephone Number:
E-mail address:

Please include the following nomination information:

1. Narrative – A one to three page narrative that describes the operation and why the nominee is an **outstanding** forage and/or forage-livestock producer. Please include the following information:
 - Size and type of operation including the number of acres of pasture, stockpiled forages, hay, silage, haylage, and summer/winter annuals. Explain major challenges related to soils or the site and describe the general forage species mix in pastures, and any species (ex. summer/winter annuals, warm season perennials, etc.) that are managed in separate paddocks or hay fields and how they are used to meet goals and boost production and profitability of the operation. If livestock are managed in more than one herd, please include acres and number of pasture divisions dedicated to each.
 - Explain the grazing practices used (continuous, rotational, management-intensive, mob, etc), including the number of permanent paddocks, and innovative grazing management techniques such as strip grazing stockpiled tall fescue and the benefits realized from this management.
 - Species types (beef, dairy, equine, sheep, goat, or poultry) and numbers
 - Describe management practices that have extended the grazing season and include the average number of days hay or supplemental feed is required and site any records that support improved profitability of the operation such as cost per unit of production if available. Emphasize why this is an exceptional forage producer that would inspire others.
 - Please include details on participation in Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conversation Service, Virginia Forage and Grassland, or other programs that have enhanced forage and/or forage-livestock, forage quality, better wildlife habitat, soil conservation and water quality (note how much (%) of the streams, ponds or active sinkholes on the farm have been excluded from livestock).
 - Please list and describe any other land use or enterprise that adds to diversification to the farm operation (ex. Wildlife habitat management, conservation easements, tourism, direct sales off the farm, etc.).
 - Include digital images (maximum of five pictures) that support the narrative and show the practices in place and in use on the farm.
2. References: Please include *two - three* references that can be contacted by the selection committee. Please include their address, phone number and e-mail address.

The award winner will receive the award at one of the regional VFGC Winter Meetings and will be expected to give a 10-15 minute overview of their operation. Persons nominating the Forage Producer of the Year Award winner will be responsible for assisting the winner in assembling the 10-15 minute power point presentation and a one-two page summary narrative for the proceedings.

This is a sponsored contest and the winner will be a \$500 cash prize. The winner is also eligible and encouraged to represent Virginia in the Forage Spokesperson of the Year Contest at the American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meeting.

Nomination Deadline: Please return completed application via e-mail to vfgcawards@gmail.com by August 15, 2024.