



Deadline: October 15, 2020

The Executive Women in Agriculture Trailblazer 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 TOP PRODUCER magazine and at AgWeb.com. Any financial information remains confidential unless entrants agree to its release.

Prizes include:

- A trip for two to attend the Executive Women in Agriculture conference, which is part of the Top Producer Summit in Chicago (Jan. 26-28, 2021)
- Leadership, business or succession planning consulting sessions with Rena Striegel, Transition Point Business Advisors

Return Entries to:

sschafer@farmjournal.com
Top Producer
P.O. Box 958
Mexico, MO 65265
Voice: (573) 581-6387
Fax: (573) 581-9646

If mailing, please call or email Sara Schafer at (573) 581-6387 or *sschafer@farmjournal.com* to confirm your entry was received.

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 2018 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: _____

