

Call for Applications
New York 2024



Presented by
Sand County Foundation *in partnership with*
American Farmland Trust, *and state partners:*
Agricultural Environmental Management,
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets,
and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

2021 recipient Table Rock Farm
of Castile, New York

Leopold Conservation Award

In his influential book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage. The development of a land ethic was, he wrote, "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity." A land ethic is alive and well today in the thousands of American farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who improve soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat.

Sand County Foundation proudly presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners dedicated to leaving their land better than how they found it. They exemplify the spirit of Leopold's land ethic.

In New York, Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award in partnership with American Farmland Trust, and state partners: Agricultural Environmental Management, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Leopold Conservation Award recipient receives \$10,000 and a crystal award.

Leopold Conservation Awards recognize extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspire other landowners through their example, and help the general public understand the vital role private landowners play in conservation success.

Leopold Conservation Award

2024 Call for Applications

If you, or someone you know, is a landowner in New York State who is committed to land management practices that increase conservation, we invite your application for the New York Agricultural Environmental Management Leopold Conservation Award.

The New York Agricultural Environmental Management Leopold Conservation Award will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Conservation Ethic** – Describe how the nominee has voluntarily exceeded the minimum obligations of regulation to enhance and conserve natural resources.
2. **Resilience** – Describe the business and conservation methods used by the nominee to make the operation productive into the future.
3. **Leadership and Communication** – Describe significant efforts the nominee has made to share his/her conservation ethics and techniques with others inside and outside of agriculture.
Describe community service, positions held, leadership roles and media outreach.
4. **Innovation and Adaptability** – Describe how the nominee has taken risks by utilizing orexperimenting with new techniques to adapt to change (consumers, markets, weather, regulations, etc.).
5. **Ecological Community** – Describe how the nominee’s agricultural operation works with natural systems (soil, water, plants and wildlife, etc.). Describe how this benefits others.

Apply with your county conservation district office.

Find your county office at:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/soil-water-conservation-district-offices>

Award recipient must be available this summer to host a two-day video shoot and an on-farm award presentation.

Questions? Please contact: Lance Irving at lirving@sandcountyfoundation.org

The New York award is presented and sponsored by:



Cornell
Cooperative
Extension



The Ida and Robert Gordon
Family Foundation



FARM CREDIT EAST

Audubon New York

McDonald's

New York State Agribusiness
Association

USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service



Application Deadline: May 15, 2024

For further information, please see the Leopold Conservation Award website:

www.leopoldconservationaward.org