

Orange County Farm Bureau Outstanding Farm Award

Purpose of Program

Attractive Farms give the consumer greater confidence in the many different products that farms produce. This award gives recognition to the Farms and farmers for maintaining a well-kept farmstead.

Eligibility

All Orange County Farm Bureau members are invited to apply for the award. Farms receiving scores of 90 points or higher will receive an 18" X 24" OCFB Outstanding Farm sign to be displayed in front of the farm.

Application Fee: \$40.00

Application

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone: Cell Phone:

E-mail Address:

Location (driving directions for Judging Team)

I hereby apply to the OCFB Outstanding Farm Award Committee to have my Farm scored in accordance with the rules of the program for the purpose of obtaining a OCFB Outstanding Farm sign to be displayed on my premises.

Signature of owner or operator:

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Please Forward to:

Justin Poulin
OCFB
3302 West ST
Brookfield, VT 05036
1-802-276-3227

How is your farm scored?

OCFB OUTSTANDING FARM.

Awards are based upon neatness, good maintenance and other factors which can be controlled by the farmer. Attractive background scenery is not weighed heavily in judging. All judging observations should be made from a vehicle at one or more points on an adjacent public highway (or if farm is off road, the nearest lane). Judging gives equal consideration to old wood construction and new construction of metal or concrete block.

The award program may be used for subsequent advertising or promotion activities for OCFB. Farmers who apply agree that, if selected they will cooperate with these activities and make all reasonable efforts to maintain both the exterior and interior of their properties in an acceptable condition.

How the Application Works

Owner, operator or farm should sign application and send to OCFB OUTSTANDING FARM program

How Judging Works

Judging teams will visit farms. Farms will be judged each year and the award presented on an annual basis. Any Farm failing to maintain appearance standards will be asked to remove their sign. The OCFB Outstanding Farm signs remain the property of the program, not the property of the farmer. All farms must achieve a compliance score of 90 percent on the score card.

Rules for the OCFB OUTSTANDING FARM Award

1. The sign remains the property of the OCFB.
2. The post and bracket shall be supplied by and maintained by the farmer. It is suggested that a wood post 4" x 4' x 12' or iron pipe 2" x 12' be used. Posts or pipe should be installed and maintained in true vertical position with 8' above ground. Top of bracket should not be lower than six inches from the top of the post.
3. Sign shall be displayed in front of the farm at roadside. An attractive post and bracket or other frame shall be used to display the sign. No more than three signs may be displayed from the sign frame or post, and all shall be of a style, general in size and quality comparable to the OCFB OUTSTANDING FARM sign. Sign should be secured at bottom to avoid wind damage.
4. Signs shall not be moved to other premises. New owners of a OCFB OUTSTANDING FARM farm must apply to retain the sign.
5. Replacement of damaged signs shall be at the discretion of the committee.
6. Judge's decisions will be final.
7. Farms awarded OCFB OUTSTANDING FARM sign in previous years will be judged each year, but do not need to re-apply each year. If they do not qualify, they will be re-judged in 2 months so they have the opportunity to keep the sign.
10. Farms that do not re-qualify will return their sign to the OCFB OUTSTANDING FARM program

Judging Criteria

OCFB OUTSTANDING FARM AWARD

Each Farm will be judged on the following criteria.

Buildings

- Clean and Attractively finished. (Applicable to both agricultural buildings and residences on the farm property). Painted surfaces in good condition, other types of exterior surfaces presenting a good appearance. Naturally weathered, unfinished wood acceptable if overall effect is attractive.
- Physical Condition. Buildings and other structures on the farm should be free of visible damage and deterioration such as broken windows, sagging roof, etc.
- Uniform appearance. (Applicable to farm buildings only). Silos, metal storage sheds and other specialized structures that differ in appearance from other buildings should not be debited if the appearance is generally compatible with other farm buildings.

Grounds and Surroundings

- Landscaping. Landscaping around Farm buildings and any residences should be neat and appropriate. The extent of the landscaping on the property should not be weighed heavily.
- Roads and lanes. The driveway and other private roads visible from public roads should be well graded and have uniform and neat appearance.
- Fences. Fences should be in good repair and free of tall weeds.
- Ditches. Ditches bordering the property and along the driveway and other private roads visible from the highway should be neat and free of debris and excessive weeds.

Farm Operations

- Animals. All livestock that are visible from public roads should be clean.
- Barnyard. The barnyard and other livestock holding areas or pastures should be neat and free of manure piles, muddy areas and other unsightly conditions.
- Cleanliness of roads. Tracking of mud and manure onto roads should be avoided as much as possible.
- Manure handling. Manure storage facilities and disposal equipment should be out of sight as much as possible. When visible from a public road, all reasonable efforts should be made to avoid an unsightly appearance.
- Machinery. Farm machinery should be parked or stored in an orderly manner.
- Pollution. There should be no apparent pollution of streams from farm operations.
- Feed areas. Feed areas should be free from visible litter.
- Unnecessary items. The farm property should be free of debris, obviously deteriorated machinery, and other unnecessary items.

Each farm begins with 100 points. Points are then deducted based on the above criteria. Farms scoring 90 points or higher receive the award.