



VERMONT FARM BUREAU[®]
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2026 Award Nominations

Recognizing service, leadership, achievement, and excellence across Vermont agriculture.

VTFB members are invited to recommend deserving individuals, families, and County Farm Bureaus for consideration by the 2026 Award Review Panel.

Nomination deadline: October 1, 2026

Submit completed materials to:

Vermont Farm Bureau

Attn: 2026 Awards Amanda Ryan

97 State Street, Suite 2

Montpelier, VT 05602

To send digitally please email Amanda Ryan a.ryan@vtfb.org or forward to your County Field Representative

Please retain a copy of all submitted materials. Send copies—not irreplaceable originals—of photographs or memorabilia.

Invitation to Members

Vermont Farm Bureau members are invited to help identify and nominate people, families, and County Farm Bureaus whose work reflects exceptional service to agriculture, leadership, stewardship, and community involvement.

Potential awardees will be reviewed through the 2026 awards process, including County Farm Bureau and State Board representatives serving on the award review panel. The panel may request clarification or additional information when needed. To support a fair review, identifying information may be separated from narrative materials where an award form requests anonymous judging.

How to participate

- **Review the award descriptions** and choose the category that best fits the nominee.
- **Confirm eligibility**, including membership, age, farming status, or county activity requirements.
- **Coordinate with your County Farm Bureau.** Awards limited to one entry per county require county review and endorsement before submission.
- **Complete the nomination section** and provide the requested supporting information.
- **Submit by October 1, 2026.** Incomplete or late nominations may not be eligible for consideration.

Awards included in this packet

Award	Recognizes
Wallace Award	Distinguished lifetime service to Vermont agriculture
Farmer of the Year	Farm achievement and leadership; nominee over age 35
Young Farmer Achievement Award	Farm achievement and leadership; voting member age 18–35
Farm Woman of the Year	Farming achievement, leadership, and community involvement
Cornwall Award	Overall excellence by a County Farm Bureau
Jackie Folsom County Farm Bureau Award	County growth, engagement, advocacy, and improvement

Confidentiality: Personal and financial information submitted for judging will be treated as confidential and shared only as needed for administration and review.

Wallace Award

Named for former Vermont Farm Bureau President Keith Wallace, the Wallace Award has been presented since 1975 and is the highest honor awarded by Vermont Farm Bureau. It recognizes an individual or couple for distinguished lifetime service to agriculture.

Nomination requirements

- The nominator must be a current Vermont Farm Bureau member.
- Submit a letter of recommendation explaining the nominee's lifetime contribution to Vermont agriculture.
- Attach a biography and relevant supporting materials. Photographs or articles may be included as copies.
- County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to reconsider and resubmit strong nominations that were not previously selected.
- When more than one nomination originates within a county, the County Farm Bureau should review the candidates and endorse one entry for state consideration.

Nominee information

Nominee name(s):

Mailing address:

Town / County:

Telephone / Email:

Primary agricultural connection or occupation:

Nominated by (name and County Farm Bureau):

Recommendation

Attach a letter describing the nominee's agricultural service, leadership, lasting impact, honors, and community contributions.

Brief summary of why this nominee should receive the Wallace Award:

Wallace Award Historical Recipients

Use this list to identify prior recipients before making a nomination. Names and years are retained from the prior awards packet; the 2013–2022 record remains under verification.

1975	Elmer E. Towne	1976	Robert L. Carlson
1977	Robert P. Davison	1978	Dwight R. Miller, Jr.
1979	Edward R. Eurich	1980	Erden W. Bailey (posthumously)
1981	C. Blake Roy	1982	Roger D. Whitcomb
1983	Arthur O. Dahlbergh	1984	Gerald Ira Morse
1985	Kenneth R. Bishop	1986	Richard N. Stevens, Sr.
1987	Rupert C. Chamberlin	1988	Verle R. Houghaboom
1989	Harry U. Lawrence	1990	Leland Simpson
1991	Wayne Patenaude	1992	Elmer L. Faris
1993	Dot and Everitt Willard	1994	D. Frances Howrigan
1995	Stewart Gibson	1996	Deacy and Bee Leonard
1997	Bernard Whitman	1998	Hazel Prindle
1999	Bryce Elliott	2000	Robert H. Wood
2001	George and Nancy Livak	2002	Richard and Helen Moore
2003	Bill Snow	2004	Philip Winters
2005	Alice and Merlin “Tuffy” Doyle	2006	George Cook
2007	Perry Hodgdon	2008	Raymond Rogers
2009	Carolyn Jones	2010	Dr. Thomas J. Stuwe
2011	Hollis Edwards	2012	None given
2013 - 2022	Historical records being verified	2023	Rupert Chamberlin

Farmer of the Year

Vermont Farm Bureau recognizes an outstanding farmer or farm family for achievement in agriculture, sound management, leadership, and service.

Eligibility

- Nominee must be a Vermont Farm Bureau member in good standing with a County Farm Bureau.
- Nominee must be over age 35 and actively engaged in farming.
- The majority of the nominee's income should come from production agriculture.
- One endorsed entry may advance from each county. Nominees age 18–35 should use the Young Farmer Achievement Award.

Nominee information

Nominee name(s):

Mailing address:

City, State and ZIP:

Telephone / Email:

Town / County Farm Bureau:

Vermont Farm Bureau member number (if known):

Nominated by (name and County Farm Bureau):

Farmer of the Year — Supporting Information

Farm profile

Describe years in farming, acreage, principal commodities, livestock or crop scale, ownership or partnership structure, and any distinctive features.

Response:

Production and stewardship

Describe management practices, conservation, land stewardship, harvesting, marketing, agritourism, innovation, and farmstead improvements.

Response:

Farmer of the Year — Supporting Information (continued)

Achievements and leadership

List agricultural achievements and awards; County and State Farm Bureau offices, committees, meeting participation, and years of membership.

Response:

Community involvement

Describe service through schools, town government, fire service, 4-H, FFA, Grange, church, agricultural groups, or other organizations.

Response:

Certification and county endorsement

Nominee signature (if self-completed):

Nominator signature / Date:

County Farm Bureau review or endorsement / Date:

Young Farmer Achievement Award

This award recognizes a young farmer individual or couple whose farm operation, progress, Farm Bureau leadership, and broader community leadership demonstrate outstanding achievement.

Eligibility

- Contestant must be a voting Vermont Farm Bureau member age 18 through 35.
- For eligibility connected to any national AFBF competition, neither contestant (if applying as a couple) may have reached age 36 by December 31 preceding the applicable AFBF Annual Convention.
- One endorsed entry may advance from each county.
- Application responses must follow the space limits in this packet. Do not attach scrapbooks, photographs, or extra recommendation letters unless requested by the 2026 Award Review Panel.

Nominee information

Nominee name(s):

Mailing address:

City, State and ZIP:

Telephone / Email:

Town / County Farm Bureau:

Vermont Farm Bureau member number (if known):

Nominated by (name and County Farm Bureau):

Young Farmer Achievement Award — Supporting Information

Personal and farm profile

Provide date of birth/age, education or specialized study, family information if desired, and a concise description of the farm operation.

Response:

Farm operation — 30%

Describe the operation, management responsibilities, production practices, and how decisions contribute to performance and sustainability.

Response:

Young Farmer Achievement Award — Supporting Information (continued)

Growth and financial progress — 25%

Describe measurable growth, efficiency, financial progress, investment, diversification, or resilience. Avoid unnecessary confidential detail.

Response:

Farm Bureau leadership — 30%

Describe County and State Farm Bureau participation, offices, committees, programs, recruitment, and policy engagement.

Response:

Other leadership — 15%

Describe leadership in agricultural, civic, school, youth, volunteer, or community organizations.

Response:

Certification and county endorsement

Nominee signature (if self-completed):

Nominator signature / Date:

County Farm Bureau review or endorsement / Date:

Farm Woman of the Year

Vermont Farm Bureau recognizes a farm woman whose work in agriculture, leadership, and community service reflects exceptional achievement and commitment.

Eligibility

- Nominee must be a Vermont Farm Bureau member in good standing with a County Farm Bureau.
- Nominee must be actively engaged in farming, with the majority of income coming from production agriculture.
- One endorsed entry may advance from each county.
- Additional written space may be used if necessary. Letters of recommendation and visual materials will not be considered unless requested by the panel.

Nominee information

Nominee name(s):

Mailing address:

City, State and ZIP:

Telephone / Email:

Town / County Farm Bureau:

Vermont Farm Bureau member number (if known):

Nominated by (name and County Farm Bureau):

Farm Woman of the Year — Supporting Information

Individual profile

Describe the nominee’s background, agricultural path, on- and off-farm work, interests, and experiences that shaped her contribution.

Response:

Farming profile

Describe the farm setting, acreage, animals or crops, duties, family or hired labor, partnerships, generational history, and changes over time.

Response:

Farm Woman of the Year — Supporting Information (continued)

Community and Farm Bureau involvement

Describe current and past County and State Farm Bureau service and involvement with community, school, youth, civic, or agricultural organizations.

Response:

Personal insight

Looking ahead five to ten years, describe the nominee’s vision for her future in agriculture.

Response:

Nominator’s statement

Explain why this nominee should be selected as Vermont Farm Woman of the Year.

Response:

Certification and county endorsement

Nominee signature (if self-completed):

Nominator signature / Date:

County Farm Bureau review or endorsement / Date:

Cornwall Award

Named in memory of Vermont Farm Bureau’s first president, Ellsworth B. Cornwall, this award honors the best overall County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and recognizes strong county leadership and participation.

Eligibility and criteria

- The County Farm Bureau must have held a successful annual meeting.
- The county must bring forward policy resolutions.
- The county must have held at least four meetings during the calendar year.
- The county submission should describe member participation, program quality, leadership, and outcomes.

County Farm Bureau:

County president / contact:

Meeting record

Please show meeting date, location, purpose, and approximate attendance for at least 4 meetings:

Cornwall Award — County Narrative

Annual meeting and resolutions

Describe the county annual meeting, participation, speakers/program, and outcomes:

List resolutions advanced for consideration:

County president signature / Date:

Jackie Folsom County Farm Bureau Award

Created in 2022 in honor of Jackie Folsom, this award recognizes a County Farm Bureau that has demonstrated meaningful improvement, member engagement, community presence, and agricultural advocacy. Jackie’s service at county and state levels—and her 2022 induction into the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame—reflects the spirit of this award.

Award criteria

- Community involvement, such as food shelf support, farmers markets, educational activities, or local partnerships.
- Development of agricultural policy or resolutions.
- An active membership that meets at least four times per year.
- A legislative meeting or meaningful engagement with legislators during a meeting or annual meeting.
- Active member engagement and recruitment of new members.

County Farm Bureau:

County president / contact:

County overview

Attach or provide an overview explaining how the county improved and met the criteria during the year. Copies of photographs may be included.

Community involvement:

Policy and resolutions:

Jackie Folsom Award — County Overview (continued)

Meetings and legislative engagement:

Member engagement, recruitment, and evidence of improvement:

County president signature / Date:

Final Submission Checklist

Before submitting a nomination, confirm that the packet is complete and ready for county and state review.

- The nominee and award category are clearly identified.
- Eligibility has been confirmed.
- All requested narrative sections are complete and readable.
- Required signatures and County Farm Bureau endorsement are included, when applicable. Page 18
- Supporting materials comply with the award-specific instructions.
- Only copies of photographs or irreplaceable materials are enclosed.
- A copy of the full submission has been retained by the nominator or county.

Completed nominations must be received by October 1, 2026.

Mail:

Vermont Farm Bureau
Attn: 2026 Awards
97 State Street, Suite 2
Montpelier, VT 05602

Questions: Contact the Vermont Farm Bureau state office for guidance about eligibility, county endorsement, or submission requirements.

Administrative note: This 2026 packet reorganizes and clarifies the prior awards materials for use by the general membership. If current state or national program rules conflict with this packet, the applicable current rules govern.