



LEOPOLD CENTER

2016 SPENCER AWARD NOMINATION FORM

The Spencer Award honors the beliefs, innovations and stewardship of Norman and Margaretha Spencer, who farmed near Sioux City, Iowa for 40 years. It serves as a lasting memorial to the Spencers, who believed that it is the obligation of each generation to leave the world a better and healthier place for the next generation.

The award was established in 2001 by an endowment from the Spencer family, and is administered by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. The 2016 award includes a \$1,000 cash prize.

Who is eligible: Any Iowan who has made significant contributions to the advancement of ecological and economic practices that will make agriculture sustainable and the family farm secure for the future. This can include individuals, agricultural organizations, researchers, or educators. The contributions must have broader implications for the resilience of Iowa agriculture—extending the nominee’s reach beyond the lab, classroom or individual farm.

How to qualify: You may apply for the Spencer Award or be nominated by others. Agricultural organizations are strongly encouraged to submit nominations to highlight the achievements of their members. Nominees must have:

- Made a significant contribution that will affect, influence and/or advance the ecological and economic stability of mainstream family farms in the state of Iowa;
- A record of accomplishment in research, technical or practical advancement or education;
- A long-standing commitment to the sustainability of mainstream family farms.

What to submit: Complete the Nomination Form on the other side and return it to the Leopold Center with **two letters of support** for the candidate. Or send us the electronic version of the form found at <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/spencer-award>

When to apply: Nominations must be received by **June 15, 2016**.

Questions? Contact Mary Adams, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 209 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1050; Fax: (515) 294-9696; or e-mail (with Spencer Award nom as subject line): madams@iastate.edu. Read about past winners on the web at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/spencer-award/past-recipients

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1) Nominee: *(An individual or a group may be nominated. If a group is being nominated, please provide contact information for a representative of that group.)*

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Home phone: _____ Daytime phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Choose one: This is a self-nomination. The candidate is being nominated by someone else *(please let us know how to reach you).*

Name of **nominator:** _____

Mailing address: _____

Home phone: _____ Daytime phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Qualifications: (describe on 1-2 additional pages)

2) Why are you nominating yourself/this person or group for the Spencer Award?

3) What significant contribution(s) has the candidate made that will affect, influence and/or advance the ecological and economic stability of mainstream family farms in Iowa? Provide examples, such as:

- Research that addresses a significant economic or ecological challenge facing Iowa farmers (if the project resulted in a publication or thesis, include a copy of the article or thesis abstract as an attachment),
- Educational activities or other work that have improved family-owned farming operations (please provide a detailed description and other appropriate attachments), or
- Practical improvements in a family-owned farming operation that could be shared with others (include field work data and a description of results as an attachment),

4) Tell us why these accomplishments are significant to promoting sustainable agriculture *in Iowa.*

5) What current actions of the candidate at the community, state or national levels show a **continuing commitment** to mainstream family farms in Iowa?

6) Letters of support: Please include two letters of support for the nominee along with the nomination form. If the nominee is a farmer, at least one letter of support must come from the local NRCS office, district soil commissioner, private crop consultant, extension specialist or other professional who is familiar with the nominee's farming operation.

Nominations are due June 15, 2016: Send materials to Mary Adams, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 209 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011. Or e-mail your materials to madams@iastate.edu (use Spencer Award nom as subject line).