



TO: Chairs, All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: Colleen Miller, Chair of State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee and Ramona Nitz, President of Conservation Districts of Iowa

DATE: March 1, 2022

RE: **INFORMATION (INFO)**  
Contests and Awards  
Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program (ISCAP)  
Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award  
Ken Wagner Award  
Outstanding SWCD Commissioner Award  
Outstanding Watershed Award  
Ruth Wagner Award  
Woodland Owner of the Year Award  
CDI Honorary Member Award  
Conservation Woman of the Year Award  
Paul Johnson Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Award

We are writing to remind you that Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have several opportunities throughout the year to recognize individuals who are making outstanding contributions toward soil conservation and water quality. One way to accomplish this is through the many awards programs available to you. Although it is somewhat early in the process, we suggest that you study the criteria for each award listed above and begin thinking about your selections. We encourage one Commissioner be appointed as "Awards Committee Chair", in order to devote sufficient time to this important task.

Many districts limit their awards program to specific and traditional awards that have been popular in the past. Perhaps this year your district might expand your current program by adding to your annual work plan a category that was not previously entered and submit an entry for this year.

Currently IDALS is working with Farm Bureau and Van Wall Group to determine the details in the award for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program (ISCAP) Conservation Farmer of the Year recipient. So please watch for more details to come on this award hopefully soon.

Thanks to Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC), the 2022 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program (ISCAP) Conservation Teacher of the Year Award Winners will receive a one-year ICEC membership!

Please take note of the Ken Wagner and Ruth Wagner Awards. The Ken Wagner Award is for Commissioners with less than five years' experience. The Ruth Wagner Award is for the outstanding Assistant Commissioner.

All 100 districts may participate by sending a nomination for the Outstanding SWCD Commissioner Award. This award is given on a statewide basis. Past state winners and present Officers or Directors of CDI are not eligible; however, past regional winners are eligible.

The following are the due dates and locations to send the nominations for awards. You can find the award forms attached to this email or on CDI's website:

<http://cdiowa.org/recognition/awards/>

- Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program (ISCAP)
  - Conservation Teacher of the Year Award (open to self-nomination) – Due **June 10** to IDALS-DSCWQ
  - Conservation Farmer of the Year Award – details to come out soon
- Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award – Due **June 10** to IDALS-DSCWQ (Please include at least one to three color photographs)
- Ken Wagner Award (open to self-nomination) – Due **June 10** to IDALS-DSCWQ
- Outstanding SWCD Commissioner Award – Due **June 10** to IDALS-DSCWQ
- Outstanding Watershed Award – Due **June 10** to IDALS-DSCWQ
- Ruth Wagner Award (open to self-nomination) – Due **June 10** to IDALS-DSCWQ
- Woodland Owner of the Year Award – Due **June 10** to District Forester
- CDI Honorary Member Award – Due **June 10** to IDALS-DSCWQ
- Conservation Woman of the Year Award – Due **June 10** to NRCS State Office
- Paul Johnson Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Award - Due **June 10** to IDALS-DSCWQ

*All nominations must be submitted electronically to Angie Sebastian at [angie.sebastian@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:angie.sebastian@iowaagriculture.gov). Be sure to scan all photographs in color. You will receive a confirmation email within one week. If you do not, please contact Angie Sebastian.*

Good luck this year with your district awards programs. If you have any questions, please call Angie Sebastian at 515-499-4941 or Lori Lewis at 515-281-5258.

Colleen Miller, Chair  
State Soil Conservation &  
Water Quality Committee

Ramona Nitz, President  
Conservation Districts of Iowa

Attachments

cc: CDI, Jeff Goerndt, Shawn Richmond, Jason Johnson, Kate Bussanmas, Will Myers, IDALS Field Representatives