



**EMINENT LEADERS IN AGRICULTURE, FAMILY, & COMMUNITY  
AWARD PROGRAM**

**College of Agriculture, Food, & Environmental Sciences  
College of Education & Human Sciences  
South Dakota State University**

**OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM**

Nominations must be received by May 1 to be considered for awards given in the same calendar year. Return completed form and attachments by mail or email to:

ELAFC Nominations  
SDSU CAFES Dean's Office  
SAG 131, Box 2207  
Brookings, SD 57007  
[angela.loftesness@sdstate.edu](mailto:angela.loftesness@sdstate.edu)

Eminent Leaders in Agriculture, Family, and Community Awards are given to up to four South Dakotans that have provided a lifetime of leadership and service for the betterment of the agriculture industry, families, and South Dakota communities.

SDSU invites confidential nominations from across the state. A committee of faculty, Extension specialists, administrators, and a representative from the Eminent Leaders in Agriculture, Family, and Community Association review the nominations. The Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences and the Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences jointly review the recommendations of the selection committee and make the final selection.

The Eminent Leaders Program began in 1927 with the recognition of two Eminent Farmers by South Dakota State College, now South Dakota State University (SDSU). The following year, the program was expanded to with the addition of two Eminent Homemaker honorees. In the early years, the Eminent Farmer and Homemaker awards were much like honorary degrees. In the 1950s, the purpose of the program was clarified and the awards were designated as a very high honor, uniquely different from honorary degrees. Eminent Farmer was changed to Eminent Farmer/Rancher in 2011. In 2018, the full name of the award program was changed to Eminent Leaders in Agriculture, Family, and Community. SDSU and the Colleges of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences and Education and Human Sciences sponsor the program.

Portraits of honorees hang in the *Hall of Fame Gallery*, located in SDSU's Berg Agricultural Hall. More than 350 portraits of Eminent Leaders are on display.

In addition, a digital record can be found online at <https://sdstate.edu/eminent-leaders>.

### **NOMINATION PROCESS & EXPECTATIONS**

- Do not interview the nominee.
- Complete an official nomination form and provide three to five letters of support for each nominee. Spouses or partners may be nominated, but a separate form and letters must be provided for each individual.
- Information will be kept confidential and used only in the selection process.
- Nominations are valid for five years. Updates by the original nominator or letter writers are encouraged.
- Recipients must be residents of South Dakota.
- Recipients must not have been employed by SDSU within the past five years.
- Recipients must be living at the time they are contacted by the program chair.
- Nominations must be received by May 1 to be considered for awards given in the same calendar year.

### **REQUIRED INFORMATION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Occupation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the spouse living? \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names and Addresses (if applicable) Age Education Occupation

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Nominated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACH NOMINATOR'S RECOMMENDATION OF NOMINEE**

The recommendation should address the following in two pages or less:

- Contributions to agriculture, family, and/or community
- Specific contributions to county, state, or nation including connections to SDSU
- Positions of leadership (offices, titles, and responsibilities)
- Awards, Honors, or Recognition previously received
- If possible, while preserving confidentiality of the nomination, give the candidate's philosophy of life and/or service to others

**ATTACH 3-5 LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

The letters of support should, in total, provide further evidence of the information provided in the nominator's recommendation. Nominations with fewer than three letters will not be considered. It is highly encouraged that letters come from a wide range of perspectives (i.e. not all from the same family, organization, etc.).