# 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

NOMINATION PACKET





For centuries, cattle producers have had a personal relationship with the nation's land and resources. They have assumed the responsibilities and risks of investing their lives to protect and conserve the environment. Producers depend on the land and its resources for their livelihood. Therefore, good management practices ensures their well-being and the longevity of their operation for future generations.

Cattle producers, as individuals and as an industry, are actively working to protect and improve the environment because they know environmental stewardship and good business go hand-in-hand.

Since 1991, the Environmental Stewardship Award annually recognizes outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of U.S. cattle producers. Regional and national award winners have been commended for their commitment to protecting the environment and improving fish and wildlife habitats while operating profitable cattle operations.

Environmental Stewardship Award winners share a common desire for leaving the land in better condition than they found it in hopes of inspiring the next generation of land stewards. While the program highlights stewardship, it also

provides fellow cattle producers with examples and ideas of management practices, which may be useful on their own farming and ranch operations.

The Environmental Stewardship Award is an initiative of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Cattlemen's Foundation and is funded by Corteva Agriscience, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Award winners are selected annually by a committee of representatives from universities, conservation organizations, cattle producers, federal and state agencies. For guidance, the judges consider the management of water, wildlife, vegetation, air, and soil, along with leadership abilities and the sustainability of the business as a whole.

Nominations can be submitted by any organization, group or individual on behalf of a U.S. cattle producer. In the past, nominations have been submitted by a diverse mix of organizations. A partial list includes: The Nature Conservancy, NRCS, Society for Range Management, state game and parks services, state extension services, universities, wildlife organizations, and livestock groups.

### AWARD TIMELINE AND EVENTS

### **APPLICATIONS DUE: FEBRUARY 17, 2025**

- March/April 2025: The Selection Committee meets to determine the 2025 regional winners. These winners are personally notified shortly thereafter but are not publicly announced.
- **June 2025:** The video crew begins to visit each of the 2025 regional winners' operations.
- February 2026: All regional winners from 2025 are expected to attend the 2026 Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville, TN. Travel and registration will be paid for by the Environmental Stewardship Award for two people.



"Caretakers of the Land" bronze gifted to National winner.



### YOUR 2025 AWARD APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

(Sections I-IV should not exceed 12 pages total)

### SECTION I — HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS AND ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Please identify the name of the business, the individual(s) to be recognized, address, primary contact, website, phone/fax/email and a map indicating where the operation is located within the state. This section should provide a brief description of the operation's history, business model and ecological setting. What sector(s) of the cattle industry are primary (cow/calf, stocker, etc.)? What other enterprises are associated with the cattle operation? What are the primary ecological features of the landscape (e.g. notable watersheds, geology, topography, climatic zones, water bodies, dominant wildlife species, urban/suburban interfaces and the like)? What natural resources (e.g. mining, hunting/fishing, oil/gas, timber) contribute significantly to the operation's revenue streams? How big are the parcels of land? How much land is owned, leased (federal or otherwise)? How many beef units are raised on the operation? What is the operation's history of ownership and business structure?

### SECTION II — TELL THE STORY: SUSTAINABILITY ON THE GROUND

This is the most important section of the application. It should present—in a logical, systematic way—the form that "sustainability" takes in the operation's unique ecological, economic, social and regulatory settings. What are the applicants trying to achieve and why? How successful have they been? To what, as it relates to their cattle operation, do they owe their success? The suggested outline that follows is intended to help the nominator organize their presentation of the relevant information in a way that embodies the candidate's thoughtful, coherent, practical strategy for achieving long-term sustainability as it relates to their cattle operations.

### **AREAS OF FOCUS:**

# Regulatory Context/Setting — Federal, State and/or Municipal Requirements

Are there specific regulatory requirements that apply to the operations as a whole, or any of its significant components? Examples would include NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) or state water permits, endangered-species limitations, state-designated water-quality stream segments, TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads), air-pollution non-attainment status and the like. Identify them and explain how they affect the operation's strategic objectives.

### Special Challenges and/or Opportunities

What are the specific challenges and opportunities that the landscape poses for the beef operation and its viability? Examples of resource challenges and opportunities might include groundwater or surface water supply and quality; riparian restoration; native plants, fish and wildlife; invasive species; erodible soils; use of recycled materials; innovations created to protect or enhance natural resources; encroaching land development; reclamation needs; etc. How do these conditions affect the range of tactics, strategies and financial resources that are available to the candidate? What is required to protect or enhance the ranch's environmental conditions and natural resources?

# Environmental, Economic, Resource-Management, and Sustainability Goals

In consideration of the beef operation's ecological and regulatory settings, unique environmental or natural resource challenges, and special environmental opportunities, what are the candidate's primary goals? Environmental and resource-conservation goals must be included here, but economic goals that play a vital role in making the environmental goals a practical possibility should also be described.

### Partnerships, Strategies, Tactics and Practices

What did the candidate do to pursue the goals outlined in the previous section? Did the candidate enter into any substantial partnerships or land-management arrangements? Did the candidate enter into any cost-share or incentive programs with agencies or foundations? What educational and/or technical assistance resources did the candidate draw upon for help? What specific practices, structure, and/or management changes did the candidate put in place (e.g. grazing practices, erosion controls, pest management, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, riparian restoration, etc.) that helped to achieve the operation's sustainability goals?

# Outcomes and Accomplishments—Benchmarks, Data, Before/After Images, Documenting Success

To the greatest extent possible, document the success the operation has had in achieving its sustainability goals. Are there any measurable results? For example, has water or air quality improved? Have endangered-species populations rebounded? Has wildlife harvest, quality, or diversity improved? Does the operation use less (energy, water, imported nutrients) per unit at marketed beef? Are profit margins improving? If appropriate and credible, include any monitoring data, research data, survey data, or photographic evidence that clearly illustrates the operation's progress toward achieving its sustainable objectives.



### SECTION III — SHARING YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STORY

(200 words maximum)

This is an opportunity to put environmental sustainability in terms that the consuming public will understand and appreciate. What is unique about the operations's strategies, tactics or successes that will appeal to the average consumer's understanding of sustainable beef production? Why should anyone care what the candidate is doing to protect and enhance the environment and natural resources in the surrounding landscape?

### SECTION IV — LEADERSHIP IN CONSERVATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND THE INDUSTRY

Regional and national winners will become spokespeople for the beef industry, carrying forth the message that cattle producers are committed to good stewardship of the land and to the principles of long-term sustainability. How has the candidate demonstrated the drive and the ability to communicate that message to a sometimes skeptical public? What leadership has the candidate demonstrated that illustrates an ability to persuade fellow cattle producers to pursue environmental sustainability as a primary business objective? How well would the candidate serve as a spokesperson for the beef industry? How involved is the candidate in the state or national organization?

# SECTION V — LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION/LETTER OF SUPPORT

(8 pages maximum)

No more than three letters of recommendation should be included here. These letters should emphasize the nominee's leadership in conservation, land stewardship and sustainability. Recommendation letters can come from fellow cattle producers, local or state organizations, foundations, national organizations, neighbors, friends, biologists, other conservationists, etc. Each letter should be no longer than two pages.

In addition to recommendation letters, each applicant should submit a nomination letter or letter of support. This letter can be prepared by the individual or organization that nominated the applicant.

### **Application Techinical Guidelines**

There is a 20-page limit for the nomination packet that includes:

- 12 pages for the application
- 2 pages for each letter of recommendation (total of 6 pages)
- 2 pages for the nomination letter.
- Attach signed Statement of Authenticity

Please submit electronically. Your applications will be printed on an in-house color printer.

Electronic applications are preferred and a complete PDF document is suggested with all the pieces compiled in a single document.

Please do not send nominations in notebooks or binders. Please keep your font size at 12 points. A sample of a winning application from previous years can be found online at www.EnvironmentalStewardship.org.

Completed application must be emailed to the contact below or postmarked by February 17, 2025 and sent to:

National Cattlemen's Foundation Environmental Stewardship Award 9110 E. Nichols Ave., Suite 300 Centennial, CO 80112 303-850-3378 • esap@beef.org



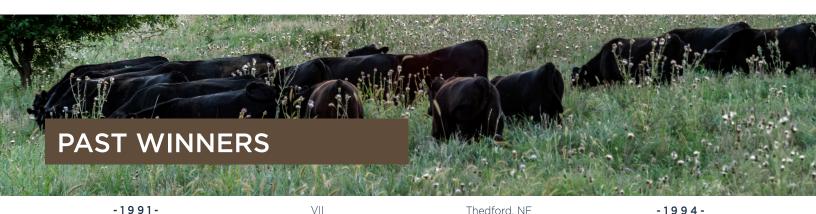
# THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Environmental Stewardship Practices, Accomplishments, and Goals
- Local, Regional and National Leadership Activities that Improve Conservation, Stewardship and Perception of the Cattle Industry
- Endorsements from Cattle Groups, Conservation Organizations and/or Government Agencies
- Sustainability of the Operation and Economic Viability

Applications for the 2025 Environmental Stewardship Award are due February 17, 2025. Any individual, group or organization is eligible to nominate one individual/business who raises or feeds cattle. Individuals and families may not nominate themselves. However, we expect nominees will be involved in the preparation of the application.

Past nominees are encouraged to resubmit their application. Previous regional winners may not reapply.

The full nomination application and directions for its completion are enclosed in this packet. Along with the typed application, one nomination letter and three letters of recommendation highlighting the nominee's leadership in conservation are expected. Nominees do not have to be members of NCBA but should support the objectives of their state and national organization. National membership is strongly encouraged.



Don Duff Chavies, KY Ш Adams Ranch Mike Adms Fort Piecre, FL Ш Littrell Farms Terry Littrell Thompson, MO Spur Headquarters Ranch O.J. Barron, III Spur, TX Pitchfork Ranch Co. Jack Turnell Meeteetse, WY VI Canyon Creek Ranch Robert H. Mackey and Son Alturas, CA

Grant Country Feeders Marc Roth Ulysses, KS -1992-Waffle Hill Farm Churchville, MD Crescent B Ranch Punta Gorda, FL Gerard Farms Spring Grove, MN IV Muleshoe Ranch LTD Gail, TX Smith Six Bar S Ranch VΙ Oak Ranch Wilcox, AZ VII Reed Hamilton Ranch, Inc.

Thedford, NE -1993-Vosburg Farm Climax, MI Ridgefield Farm, Inc. Brasstown, NC Douglas Center Stock Farm Corning, IA Nokes Farm, Inc. Siloam Springs, AR Yamsi Ranch Chiloquin, OR Rafter F. Cattle Co., Inc. San Jon, NM VII Smith Ranch Co.

E. Smith

Wallace, KS

-1994-Seldom Rest Farms Bruce and Scott Foster Niles, MI Ш Rafter T Ranch Avon Park, FL Ш Gruben Farms Summersville, MO IV Spade Ranch Lubbock, TX V Picabo Livestock Co. Bud N. and Ruth Purdy Picabo, ID Carrizo Valley Ranch Capitan, NM

\*Bold = National Winner

# PAST WINNERS

VII Knobbe Livestock Sales West Point, NE

-1995-

Antietam Farms Sharpsburg, MD

G.W. Jones and Sons Huntsville, AL III

> Oak Creek Farm Villisca, IA IV

### Heritage Beef Cattle Co. Joe R. Weatherly Wheeler, TX

Sitz Angus Ranch Donna Sitz Harrison, MT

Babbitt Ranches William Cordasco Flagstaff, AZ

Clarence Mortenson Pierre, SD

### -1996-

Mossy Creek Farm, LP Ernie Reeves Mt. Solon, VA

> Holmestead Co. Charles Holmes Marion, AL

Wiese and Sons Gene Wiese Manning, IA

### Lee Ranch Co. Robert E. Lee Judith Gap, MT

Allan Swith Ranch Allan and Shirley Smith Duchesne, UT VII

Double M Farms Inc. Dick and Eileen Mercer Kearney, NE

### -1997-

Triple W Farm Mark, Edward and Scott Williams Marion, KY II

Honeywood Farm Edward C. Mitchell Barnesville, GA

III Lubben White Oak Farms Dave Lubben Monticello, IA Dunkin Farms & Rafte D. Corp John Dunkin Tulsa, OK

### Three Quarter Circle Ranch Tony Malmberg Lander, WY

VII Vigen Ranch Wendell Vigen Killdeer, ND

### -1998-

Rally Farms Jesse M. Bontecou Millbrook, NY II

Poplar Hollow Farms, LLC Charles Bryson Brevard, NC

> III Greig and Co., Inc Joe Greig Estherville, IA

### Matador Cattle Co. Susan Marxer Dillon, MT

D. Jones Ranches Ralph Jones Midland, SD

### -1999-

Bartlett Island Farm David Rockefeller Mt. Desert, ME

Lykes Brothers, Inc. Michael A. Milicevic Lake Placid, FL

Amana Farms, Inc. John McGrath Amana, IA IV

Neill Cattle Co. Joe Neill Afton, OK

### Anderson Farms & Cattle Co. Edwin A. Anderson Longmont, CO

Blanchard Ranch Bob and Terri Blanchard Avila Beach, CA VII

Rhea Cattle Company, Inc. William Rhea Arlington, NE

### - 2000 -

Gregg Ritter Glasgow, KY II Gaddis Farms

Bolton, MS

Triple U Ranch Correctionville, IA IV

Morgan Cattle Company Chickasha, OK

Hanson Livestock, Co. Lusk, WY

Johnson Land and Livestock Rush Valley, UT VII

Cammack Ranch Supply Union Center, SD

### - 2001 -

Churche's Grove Farm Frankfort, KY

> Barthle Bros. San Antonio, FL III

### Iowa River Ranch Eldora, IA

Holcombe Farms Jay, OK

Milesnick Ranch Belgrade, MT

Smith Valley Cattle Feeders/ Centennial Livestock Colinga, CA

VII Nagel Cattle Company Springfield, SD

### - 2002 -

Armstrong Farms Saxonburg, PA II

Wakefield Farms LLC Hartwell, GA

Brad Z Ranch Guthrie Center, IA

The Goodson Ranch Blackwell, OK

Sieben Livestock Co. Helena, MT VI

Y Bar D Ranch Williams, AZ VII

### Kelly Ranch LLC North Platte, NE

### - 2003 -

Llangollen Farms Middleburg, VA II

Carlton 2 x 4 Ranch Arcadia, FL M and M Cattle Company Carthage, MO IV

Canyon View Farms Geary, OK

> Frasier Farms Woodrow, CO **VI**

### Work Ranch San Miguel, CA

Barenthsen Red Angus Powers Lake, ND

### - 2004 -

McElhaney Stock Farms Hookstown, PA

### Williamson Cattle Co. Okeechobee, FL

White Family Farms Estherville, IA

Chain Land & Cattle Corp. Canton, OK

Barthelmess Ranch Corp. Malta, MT

DC Cattle Company LLC Globe , AZ VII

Roise Ranch Powers Lake, ND

### - 2005 -

Lil' Ponderosa Carlisle, PA

### Lightsey Cattle Co. Lake Wales, FL

Faris Farms Mount Ayr, IA

Richards Ranch Jacksboro, TX

Sims Cattle Company, LLC McFadden, WY

Prather Ranch Fall River Mills, CA VII

Gates Angus Ranch Coldwater, KS

### - 2006 -

Blight Farms, Inc. Albion, MI II Hayston Farms

Mansfield, GA

Clan Farms, Inc. Atlantic, IA IV San Pedro Ranch

### Thaler Land & Livestock Co. La Grange, WY

San Antonio, TX

Diablo Trust Ranches Winslow, AZ VII

Brown's Gelbvieh Ranch Bismarck, ND

### - 2007 -

Sunrise Club Calves Shippenville, PA II

Dee River Ranch Aliceville, AL

Oak Knoll Ranch Salem, MO

Roaring Springs Ranch Frenchglen, OR

### Yolo Land and Cattle Co. Woodland, CA

VII Alexander Ranch Sun City, KS

### - 2008 -

Sennett Farms Cattle Co. Waynetown, IN

### Yon Family Farms Inc. Ridge Spring, SC

Guge Family Farms Estherville, IA

Bradley 3 Ranch Childress, TX

Veseth Livestock Co. Malta, MT

VI Babacorami Ranch Co., LLP Sonoita, AZ

VII Hovde Ranch LLP Alexander, ND

### - 2009 -

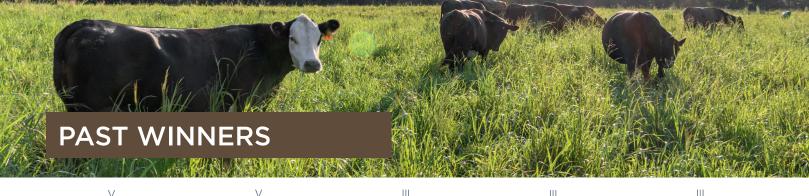
Young Cattle Company Belmont, OH

Greenview Farms, Inc Screven, GA

III Eckenfels Farm Ste. Genevieve, MO IV

Melissa Feeders Melissa, TX

\*Bold = National Winner



Pape Ranches Daniel, WY

### Leavitt Lake Ranches Vina, CA

Daybreak Ranch Highmore, SD

### - 2010 -

Cleremont Farm, G.P. Upperville, VA

Deseret Cattle and Citrus St. Cloud, FL

### III Couser Cattle Company Nevada, IA

JA Ranch Bowie, TX

Mesa De Maya Inc. Branson, CO

T.N. Ranching Company Price, UT VII

Sproul Ranch Sedan, KS

### - 2011 -

### Masonic Village Farm Elizabethtown, PA

II Daigle Farms Ragley, LA IV

Matador Ranch Matador, TX V

M and M Feedlot Parma, ID VI

Della Ranches Grouse Creek, UT VII

Center of the Nation Cattle Co. Newell, SD

### - 2012 -

Glenowen Farm, LLC Alexandria, VA

Circle Square Ranch Ocala, FL III

Funk Farms Trust Shirley, IL

1V 77 Ranch Blooming Grove, TX V Bold Ranch Winifred, MT VI

Sparrowk Livestock Clements, CA VII Slovek Ranch

# Philip, SD - 2013 -

Mountain Meadows Farm Sudbury, VT

Kissimmee Park Properties Kissimmee, FL III

Bittersweet Acres Greenville, IA

### Frank and Sims Price Ranch Sterling City, TX

Padlock Ranch Ranchester, WY

Kualoa Ranch O'Ahu, HI VII

Switzer Ranch/Calamus Outfitters, Morgan Ranch Burwell, NE

### - 2014 -

Sherwood Acres Farm LaGrange, KY

Two Rivers Ranch Thonotosassa, FL

Nichols Farms LTD Bridgewater, IA IV

Rocosa Ridge Ranch Dallas, TX

Wineinger-Davis Ranch Ordway, CO

Conlan Ranches California True Grass Farms Valley Ford, CA VII

### Rock Hills Ranch Lowry, SD

### - 2015 -

Valley View Farms Harrisonburg, VA

Bull Hammock Ranch Ft. Pierce, FL Glenn and Bev Rowe Ranch

Lorimor, IA

Burnett Ranches, LLC 6666 Ranch Guthrie, TX

American Fork Ranch Two Dot, MT

### Maggie Creek Ranch Elko, NV

VII Kopriva Angus Raymond, SD

### - 2016 -

Huntingdon Farms Alexandria, PA III

Stoney Creek Farm Redwood Falls, MN IV

Turkey Track Ranch Amarillo, TX

Cherry Creek Ranch Terry, MT

Smith Creek Ranch, LTD Austin, NV

### VII Black Leg Ranch McKenzie, ND

### - 2017 -

Rusty & Jessie Thomson Blue Lake Farm, LLC Sharon, SC III

Seth & Etta Smith SFI, Inc.

Nemaha, IA IV

Jimmy & Theresa Sterling Sterling Cattle Company Coahoma, TX

Scott & Jean Johnson Flying Diamond Ranch Kit Carson, CO **VI** 

### Jim O'Haco Cattle Company Winslow, AZ

VII Chuck & Deanna Munson Munson Angus Farms, LLC

Junction City, KS - 2018 -

Thunder View Farms Grahamsville, NY Landuyt Land & Livestock Walnut Grove, MN

Birdwell & Clark Ranch Henrietta, TX

> The Hahn Ranch Townsend, MT

Haleakala Ranch Company Makawo, HI

### - 2019 -

Overhome Farm Crozier VA

### Blackbeard's Ranch Myakka City, FL

III Didrikson Farms Badger, MN

Killam Duval County Ranch Freer, TX

> Cundall Ranch Glendo, WY VI

Ute Creek Cattle Company Bueyeros , NM

> Blew Partnership Hutchinson, KS

### - 2020 -

SK Herefords Medina, New York II

Southern Cross Farms Eupora, Mississippi III

Euken-Myers Family Lewis, Iowa IV

Double C Cattle Company Springer, Oklahoma

### Beatty Canyon Ranch Kim, Colorado

VI Boies Ranch Wells, Nevada VII

Johnson Farms Frankfort, South Dakota

### - 2021 -

EZ Acres, LLC Homer, NY

Vaughn Farms Forsyth, GA Robbins Land and Cattle Scranton, IA

> Dry Creek Ranch San Angelo, TX

Joe C King & Sons Ranch Winnett, MT VI

### JY Ferry & Son, Inc. Corinne, UT

VII Blair Brothers Angus Ranch Vale, SD

### - 2022 -

Lamb Farms, Inc. Oakfield, NY

# Carter Cattle Company,

### LLC Pintlala, AL

Huth Polled Herefords and S&H Livestock Enterprises, LLC Oakfield, WI

Parks Ranch Goliad County, TX

Mannix Brothers Ranch Helmville, MT

VI Fulstone Ranches Smith, NV VII

Jorgensen Land & Cattle Partnership Ideal, SD

### -2023-

Tuck Farms Moneta, VA

JB Ranch Immokalee, FL **IV** 

### G Bar C Ranch Rosston, TX

Tower Rock Ranch Mansfield, WA VI Hart Ranch

VII Bartholomay Kattle Kompany Sheldon, ND

Montague, CA

\*Bold = National Winner

# **SPONSORS**



Corteva Agriscience™ has

sponsored the Environmental Stewardship Awards Program for more than 30 years. Corteva, the only pure play agriculture company headquartered in the United States, is the industry leading provider of weed protection solutions. Cattle producers rely on Corteva for best-in-class pasture solutions including DuraCor®, GrazonNext® HL, PastureGard® HL, Remedy® brands, many other herbicides and the first ranch focused digital solution to provide customer decision making tools to control brush, LandVisor™ Advanced Brush Management.

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**United States** Department of **Agriculture** 

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) Since 1935, the USDA Natural

Natural Resources Conservation Service Resources Conservation Service has delivered

conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world. Our vision is a world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation. NRCS is helping private landowners improve the health of their operations while protecting our natural resources for the future and ensuring the long-term sustainability of American agriculture. NRCS employees provide sound, science-based on the ground technical assistance tailored to farmers' and ranchers' specific needs. Participation in NRCS conservation programs and initiatives is voluntary. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. For more information visit www.nrcs. usda.gov • www.usda.gov



National Cattlemen's

### NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF **ASSOCIATION**

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is the largest national organization representing America's cattle industry. Founded in 1898, NCBA is the industry leader in education,

advocating for cattle and beef producers and preserving the industry's heritage and future. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or membership@beef.org. NCBA promotes common sense and cost-effective practices that can be applied to livestock production to benefit the environment and a healthy bottom line. For more than two decades, NCBA has worked to recognize outstanding stewards of our nation's land, air and water resources through the Environmental Stewardship Award Program. For more information about NCBA please visit NCBA.org.



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S **FOUNDATION** 

The National Cattlemen's Foundation advances the

future of the beef industry with passion and urgency. The Foundation provides educational opportunities, scholarships, and a home for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Environmental Stewardship Awards Program, For information about the National Cattlemen's Foundation a 501(c)(3) organization, visit NationalCattlemensFoundation.org, call 303-694-0305 or email ncf@beef.org.

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# **ADVOCATES**

**AGRISK AGRIWEBB** MCDONALD'S **RANCHBOT** 



environmentalstewardship.org 303-850-3378 esap@beef.org

APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 17, 2025