



# Emerging Leader in Agriculture

## 2026 Award Application

The Purdue EDGE (Empowerment, Development, Growth, Education) in Ag Team recognizes individuals who are leaders and innovators contributing to the success of Indiana agriculture and, in doing so, have facilitated the advancement of Indiana agriculture. The Emerging Leader in Agriculture Award recognizes our high school and college undergrad students that are making an impact on agriculture. Currently, the Purdue EDGE in Ag Team is accepting applications for the 2026 awards.

We encourage all those who are making impact in the agriculture industry to apply. Those that meet the criteria may nominate themselves, or be nominated by someone else.

Winners will be recognized at the Indiana State Fair during the Celebration of Ag ceremony.

### Criteria for Eligibility

1. Reside in Indiana.
2. Must be actively involved in Agriculture or is/are planning to pursue an agriculture career
3. The nominee must be in high school and/or undergraduate college student
4. The nominee has the option to attend the awards ceremony and activities related to the award given at the Indiana State Fair (date TBD). After the initial review by the Purdue EDGE in Ag Team, the award finalists will be contacted to see availability for their attendance at the awards ceremony. However, being during school hours we understand this may not be possible.
5. Nominee has done a project that has made a difference and contribution to the agriculture community that is a significant impact

### Guidelines for Submission

1. The application will be considered for 2 consecutive years, as long as they still fall into the age requirements. If the nominee is not chosen in those 2 years, the application may be resubmitted for consideration.
2. One or two letters of support should be submitted with the application.

## **Nominee Information**

*Please provide as much detail as possible regarding each question. If a question is not applicable to the nominee, please indicate with NA.*

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>County of Residence</b>	
<b>Where does the Individual Attend School</b>	

Provide a brief description of the nominee's involvement in Agriculture:

Please explain how the nominee has served as an advocate for Indiana Agriculture:

Please share how the nominee engages with Purdue Extension:

Provide a brief history of the nominee's leadership roles in agriculture and their contributions to the industry including the nominee's involvement in local, state, and national agriculture activities throughout their school career:

List any agricultural related recognition or awards the nominee may have received:

As the person nominating, share why you feel the nominee is deserving of this recognition:

# Nominator Information

<i>Name</i>	
<i>Address</i>	
<i>Phone</i>	
<i>Email</i>	
<i>Is the Nominee Aware of the Award Nomination?</i>	

# Submission Information

Questions and applications with two letters of support should be sent to:

Jenna Nees  
Purdue EDGE in Ag Co-Chair  
[smith535@purdue.edu](mailto:smith535@purdue.edu)  
765-653-8411

**Application and letters of support must be received by May 1, 2026, to be considered for the 2026 awards.**

If you need accommodations to participate in this program, please contact Jenna Nees at 765-653-8411 or [smith535@purdue.edu](mailto:smith535@purdue.edu) by April 15, 2026.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Jenna Nees at 765-653-8411 or [smith535@purdue.edu](mailto:smith535@purdue.edu) by April 15, 2026.

In accordance with Purdue policies, all persons have equal access to Purdue University's educational programs, services and activities, without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability or status as a veteran. See Purdue's **Nondiscrimination Policy Statement**. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies, please contact the Office of the Vice President for Ethics and Compliance at [vpec@purdue.edu](mailto:vpec@purdue.edu) or **765-494-5830**.