



Purdue EDGE 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. Currently, the Purdue EDGE in Ag Team is accepting applications for the 2026 awards.

Individuals can be nominees for either the Leadership or Achievement award. Those interested in the award may nominate themselves, or be nominated by someone else.

Previous winners include individuals with integral roles in their personal and/or family farm business, corporate and non-profit leaders, educators, veterinarians, and those in public service roles.

Winners will be recognized at the Indiana State Fair during the Celebration of Ag ceremony. Winners will also be recognized/invited to attend the 2027 Ag Engage Conference.

Criteria for Eligibility

1. Individuals who have provided leadership and positively contributed to Indiana Agriculture.
2. The nominee must reside in Indiana.
3. The nominee must be part of an agriculture enterprise, agribusiness, farm, or commodity organization that operates in Indiana.
4. The nominee must not have previously received either the achievement or leadership award.
5. The nominee may not be currently employed by Purdue University.
6. The nominee must be present for 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.

Guidelines for Submission

1. The application will be considered for 2 consecutive years. If the nominee is not chosen in those 2 years, the application may be resubmitted for consideration.
2. 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.

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
County of Residence	
County of Employment	

Please select which award the individual is being nominated for.

	<u>Award Name</u>	<u>Definition of Award</u>
	Achievement Award	Recognizes individuals who are directly involved in a home farm operation.
	Leadership Award	Recognizes an individual in an agribusiness or policymaking position who has actively influenced Indiana agriculture.

Provide a brief description of the nominee's farm, agribusiness, or entrepreneurial agriculture enterprise(s):

Provide a brief history of the nominee's involvement in the farm, agribusiness, or entrepreneurial enterprise(s):

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, concentrating on the last 5-7 years:

List any agriculturally related recognition or awards the nominee has received, including the year of receipt:

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 Team Co-Chair
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 by April 15, 2026.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Jenna Nees at 765-653-8411 or 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** or **765-494-5830**.