



Tomorrow's Top Producer Horizon Award

Deadline: January 1, 2012

The Tomorrow's Top Producer Horizon Award will be given to a producer under the age of 35 who demonstrates excellence in the business of farming, including marketing, farm finance, family and employee relations and technology.

Entrants are judged on entrepreneurial originality (50%), financial and business progress (30%) and industry or community leadership (20%). Any farmer, rancher or partnership that gets at least half of their income from farming and farm-related ventures may apply.

To apply, complete the entry form and send two letters of reference from an accountant, banker or agribusiness leader. Winners agree to be recognized in articles published in TOP PRODUCER magazine and online. Any financial information remains confidential unless entrants agree to its release.

First Place wins a 7-day trip for two to the Cereals 2012 Show in the United Kingdom (accompanied by the Top Producer of the Year winner). Winner also receives a trip for two to attend the Tomorrow's Top Producer Seminar in Chicago, Jan. 31, 2012.

Return Entries to:

Top Producer
P.O. Box 489
Walcott, IA 52773
Phone (573) 284-5054
Fax (215) 568-3989
E-mail JBernick@farmjournal.com

Presented by



Please complete the following application.

Name _____ Birth date _____ Home phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Office phone _____ Mobile phone _____
 Fax _____ E-mail address _____
 Type of farming operation (dairy, grain, etc.) _____
 Farm name _____

Applying as: Individual Multi-partner unit

Briefly describe your responsibilities in the management of the business.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Percent of income earned from farming _____ Annual gross income from farming _____
 Total acres farmed _____ Acres owned _____
 Acres rented _____ Acres custom farmed _____
 Please list other operators/business partners and their relationship to you.
 Name _____ Relationship _____ Full/Part-time _____
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What activities make up your business? Please indicate what percentage of total gross income is represented by each segment of your business.

_____ % Crops (include 2009 acres for each) _____
_____ % Livestock (list number and type of animals marketed per year, i.e. market hogs, feeder pigs, dairy cows milked, fed cattle, feeder cattle, other) _____
_____ % Agribusiness _____
_____ % Non-agribusiness _____

How many employees (below the management level) are involved in your farm/ranch?

Full-time _____ Part-time _____

Business structure: Sole proprietor _____ Partnership _____
Corporation _____ LLC _____

List your work experience (both on and off the farm), beginning with your current position.

ESSAY QUESTIONS (attach typed responses):

1. Give us a short history of your farm operation.
2. Why did you enter farming and what were your original goals? What are they now?
3. Describe a business innovation that you have developed for your operation in one or more of the following areas: (1) farm finance; (2) family/employee relations; (3) marketing/sales; (4) technology; or (5) environmental.
4. Describe the success of that effort. If applicable, include any documentation that might support your statement (for example, financials, newspaper articles, industry awards).
5. What help have you received (financial or in-kind) from other family members, business partners or mentors?
6. What challenges have you faced and overcome in your operation?
7. Describe the financial progress you have made during your agricultural career.
8. If married, describe your spouse's occupation and/or role in the operation.
9. Describe your involvement in leadership/community service.

References (for example, CPA, lender, business leader or other financial consultant)

I grant permission for TOP PRODUCER to contact the following references for information about my farm, including my financial progress. (Please attach letters from references.)

Name _____
Title _____
Address _____

Phone _____

Name _____
Title _____
Address _____

Phone _____

I certify that the above information is accurate and agree to appear in subsequent publicity of this award, should I win.

Applicant's signature: _____

