



## **2024-2025 Farm of the Year Application**

**Deadline to apply: September 14, 2024 at 11:59 pm**

Return application to:

Kelsey Keadle - Business Specialist, Agriculture  
100 West Washington Street, Suite 1401  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
Or by email: [kkeadle@washco-md.net](mailto:kkeadle@washco-md.net)

The Farm of the Year Award is designed to recognize outstanding agricultural achievement in proficiency of production, agricultural and community organization involvement, conservation and preservation practices, and technological advances.

It is hoped that this award will enhance awareness for excellence in agriculture for Washington County, as well as create an improved awareness and understanding of the problems faced by today's family farm business.

### Qualifications:

- Applicants must operate a farm or agricultural business primarily located in Washington County, Maryland
- The farm business must generate a gross income of \$2,500 or more
- Applicants are requested to be present at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting the morning of Tuesday, October 8, 2024
- Applicants are requested to be present at the award ceremony Friday, October 11, 2024

All past applicants are encouraged to re-apply for this prestigious award. Judging will be held in September. The Farm of the Year winner will be announced at the Washington County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2024 and celebrated at the Washington County Farm Bureau Annual Banquet on Friday October 11, 2024 at 6 pm.

**General Farm Questions:**

Farm/ Business name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of farm business: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total acres farmed: \_\_\_\_\_

    Acres owned: \_\_\_\_\_

    Acres leased: \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you market/sell your products: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Family members who work on the farm: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of full time paid employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Year started farming: \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, number of generations on the farm: \_\_\_\_\_

List the current farm business production levels (i.e. bushels per acre, lbs. of milk per cow, grape tonnage per acre, number of CSA members, etc.) If possible, list and compare current levels to the last years production levels. (25 points)

What farm records are being kept and how are they being used in management analysis to increase proficiencies in production methods? (i.e. herd improvement records, breeding records, soil testing, crop production/insurance records, etc.) (50 points)

What innovative farm and/or animal production practices are being implemented on the farm? (i.e. no-till, automatic livestock feeders, robotics, drone use, direct to consumer etc.) Additionally, list any risk management tools currently in use, such as crop insurance, DRP, LRP, etc. (50 points)

How has/does your farm operation benefit the community? (15 points)

What is your succession plan for the next generation? What preservation practices are you implementing for the benefit of future generations of the farm? (10 points)

Why did you choose farming as an occupation? What unforeseen challenges have you encountered that you were not initially prepared for? (question used in the event of a tie)