

OFFICIAL RULES – Ohio Golden Owl Award® Contest

These are the Official Rules of the Ohio Golden Owl Award® Contest (“Contest”). The Contest is co-sponsored by the Ohio FFA, 717 E 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43211; the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, 280 N High St. #6, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Farm Credit Mid-America, 12501 Lakefront Place, Louisville, Kentucky 40299; AgCredit, 610 W. Lytle St., Fostoria, Ohio 44830; and Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company (“Sponsors”), One Nationwide Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

NO PURCHASE IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees must be Ohio-licensed educators currently teaching agricultural education courses at the secondary (middle/high school) level and must be actively serving as an FFA advisor to a recognized local FFA chapter in Ohio at the time of nomination. **No purchase is necessary.**

Nominations can be submitted by the general public, current or former students, parents, fellow educators, school administrators and community members.

TEACHERS MAY NOT SELF-NOMINATE.

2025-2026 GRAND PRIZE WINNER IS EXCLUDED FROM THIS YEAR’S CONTEST. NOMINATIONS FOR THIS TEACHERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Employees, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, and any entity involved in the development, production, implementation, administration or fulfillment of the Contest (all of the foregoing, together with Nationwide, OH FFA, Farm Credit, and OFBF collectively referred to as "Promotion Entities") are not eligible to enter the Contest. If any immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of such persons, whether related or not, are in the running for Honoree and/or Grand Prize Winner, such persons will be temporarily replaced by an unbiased third party to complete administration and fulfillment of the contest.

HOW TO ENTER

The Nomination period begins September 1, 2026 and ends December 31, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST (“Nomination Period”).

To enter, provide your and the ag teacher’s contact information, including an essay (250 words or less) describing how the teacher’s dedication to agriculture education, and commitment and impact on today’s youth make the teacher the best in the state.

Nominations can be completed online at <https://ohioffa.org/foundation/programs/golden-owl-award/>.

Entry constitutes consent to participate in the Contest and for the OH FFA to obtain, use, and transfer the entrant’s name, address and other details for Contest administration purposes. OH FFA will not be responsible for lost, incomplete, illegible,

late, misdirected, stolen, or mutilated entries; technical or mechanical malfunctions; errors in the Official Rules, in any related ads or materials; or processing error. OH FFA can void the entry of any Entrant who it believes has attempted to tamper with or impair Contest administration, security, fairness, or proper play.

HONOREE DETERMINATION

Ten (10) Honorees will be selected by an established committee.

An established committee will evaluate nominations received and select (1) one Honoree from each of Ohio FFA’s (10) ten districts.

Nominations will be judged based on the following criteria:

1. Teacher’s dedication to agriculture education
2. Teacher’s commitment to his/her student(s)
3. Teacher’s impact on his/her student(s)
4. Teacher’s impact on their local community
5. Number of nominations for the teacher

In the event of a tie, the teacher receiving the highest number of nominations shall be selected as Honoree, as determined by the selection committee.

Honorees will be notified no later than March 12, 2027.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER DETERMINATION

Each of ten (10) Honorees will be required to compete a short form to finalize their application for the Overall State winner. The completed form is due no later than March 19, 2027.

Ahead of the 2027 Ohio FFA State Convention, the committee will review forms submitted. The committee will deliberate and make their final selection for the Ohio Agricultural Educator of the Year.

During the 2027 Ohio FFA State Convention, the new Ohio Agricultural Educator of the Year will be announced.

If a Prize winner is not eligible to win, or if OH FFA is unable to contact the winner after a reasonable effort, the prize will be forfeited, and an alternate winner may be selected. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received.

SPONSORS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAVEL-RELATED EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH PRIZE ACCEPTANCE.

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

1. One (1) Grand Prize Winner: Trophy and a \$5,000 cash prize
2. Ten (10) Honorees: Plaque and a \$1,500 cash prize to honoree
3. All nominees: Paper certificate

Prizes are non-transferable, and no substitution will be made except as provided herein at the Sponsors' sole discretion. Sponsors reserve the right to substitute a prize for one of equal or greater value if the designated prize should become unavailable for any reason. Winners are responsible for all taxes and fees associated with prize receipt and/or use.

If requested, winners must execute and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability Release and (where legal) Publicity Release within three days of notification. Failure to do so may result in disqualification, forfeiture, or award to alternate winner.

GENERAL RULES

The Contest is governed by and subject to the laws of the United States and the state of Ohio.

All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where prohibited by law. By participating in the Contest and/or accepting any prize, Entrants grant the Promotion Entities permission to use their name, likenesses, and image in connection with the Contest for purposes of advertising, publicity and promotion purposes, without further compensation to the entrant, unless prohibited by law. Entrants agree to be bound by the Official Rules and the decisions of the judges, which are final and binding on all matters relating to the Contest. The Promotion Entities are not responsible for any typographical or other errors in the printing of the offer, administration of the Contest or the announcement of the prizes, or for lost, late, misdirected, damaged, incomplete or illegal entries.

The Promotion Entities reserve the right at their sole discretion to disqualify any Entrant found to be (a) tampering or attempting to tamper with the entry process or (b) violating the Official Rules.

By participating in the Contest and/or accepting any prize, Entrants grant Sponsors permission to use their name, likenesses, and image in connection with the Contest for purposes of advertising, publicity and promotion purposes, without further compensation to the entrant, unless prohibited by law.

DISPUTES/GOVERNING LAW

Except where prohibited, as a condition of participating in this Contest, Entrant agrees that any and all disputes that cannot be resolved between the parties, and all claims and causes of action arising out of or connected with this Contest, or any prize awarded, or the determination of winner shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action. Further, in any such dispute, under no circumstances will Entrant be permitted to obtain awards for, and hereby waives all rights to claim punitive, incidental or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorneys' fees, and Entrant further waives all rights to have damages multiplied or increased.

All issues and questions rights and obligations of Entrant in connection with this Contest shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of Ohio, without giving effect to the conflict of laws rules thereof.

PRIVACY

By entering the Contest, you agree to the terms and conditions described in the Nationwide Privacy Policy, located at <http://nationwide.com/nw/privacy>.

WINNER LIST

For a list of Prize winners, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Golden Owl Award Request, Ohio FFA, 717 E 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43211.