The Good Farmer Award U.S. 2027 Edition -

AWARD GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS

Now entering its third year, the **Good Farmer Award U.S.** continues to champion the next generation of farmers who are helping shape a healthier, more resilient future for agriculture. Through our ongoing partnership, Rodale Institute and Davines North America, a subsidiary of Davines Group, are proud to continue to recognize and support farmers who are making a meaningful difference for the land, their communities, and our food system.

Launching November 17, 2026, and culminating with the announcement of the winners on Earth Day, April 22, 2027, the award builds on the program's success in Italy and the United States. It celebrates Beginning Farmers with **10 years or less of farming experience** who are practicing or aspiring to adopt regenerative organic farming methods.

More than an award, this initiative represents a shared commitment to investing in the future of farming. By recognizing farmers who are restoring soil health, fostering biodiversity, strengthening local communities, and advancing more equitable and resilient agricultural systems, Davines Group and Rodale Institute aim to elevate their stories, support their growth, and inspire the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Submissions should highlight active interest or current implementation in environmentally responsible practices that boost biodiversity, promote long-term resilience, garner community engagement, and advance sustainable and equitable systems.

The first place award recipient will receive $10,000 from Davines North America to invest in equipment and initiatives that elevate their agroecological efforts, along with an all-expenses-paid trip (valued at $5,000) to the European Regenerative Organic Center (EROC) in Parma, Italy—a premier research and training hub connected to the Davines Group Village.

The second place award recipient will receive $5,000 from Davines North America to invest in equipment and initiatives that elevate their agroecological efforts, along with an all-expenses-paid trip (valued at $2,500) to Rodale Institute in Kutztown, PA.

How It Works

The Good Farmer Award U.S. which originated in 2024 with Davines Group's Good Farmer Award in Italy, is funded by Davines North America and facilitated by Rodale Institute.

Eligibility specifics: The Good Farmer Award U.S. is open to Beginning Farmers based in the United States who have been farming for 10 years or less. Applicants should demonstrate an active commitment to organic and regenerative organic agriculture, whether through practices already implemented or meaningful steps toward adoption. Eligible applicants should demonstrate environmentally responsible approaches that promote soil health, biodiversity, long-term resilience, community engagement, and more sustainable and equitable food systems.

A panel of judges, including representatives from Davines Group and Rodale Institute and external experts, will select the award recipients which will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2027.

As part of the application process, the applicant must clearly indicate how the award money will be used. The applicant must select one or a combination of categories listed, detailing the items, cost estimate, and description of how the prize money will be used across one or more categories. (Item, Description, Cost Estimate / Percentage of budget)

Categories:

- **Environmental Impact:** Prize money will be used to help aid sustainable, resilient farming practices that reduce environmental footprints and restore ecosystems, examples include: irrigation systems that promote water efficiency, no-till farming, agroforestry, and cover cropping.

- **Community Engagement**: Prize money will be used to help strengthen local economies and foster community relationships by prioritizing transparency, accessibility, and mutual support. Examples include: direct-to-consumer models such as farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs, and local school or grocery partnerships.

- **Equipment & Infrastructure:** Prize money will be used to purchase tools and equipment that contribute to efficiency, adaptability, and sustainability. Examples include: no-till drills and seeders, roller crimpers, advanced composting systems, energy-efficient coolers, and solar panels to power infrastructure.

THE GOOD FARMER AWARD U.S. 2027 - DETAILS

Purpose

Aligned with the European Regenerative Organic Center (EROC), the U.S. award highlights farmers/ranchers who are committed to environmentally responsible practices that boost biodiversity, focus on promoting long-term resilience through strategies that mitigate climate change, reduce environmental degradation, and support the adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystems.

Submissions should also emphasize efforts to garner meaningful community engagement by involving local stakeholders, fostering collaboration, and building awareness and advocacy for environmental stewardship. The award program will look for candidates who prioritize advancing sustainable and equitable systems that balance ecological health with social and economic needs, ensuring that benefits are shared inclusively across diverse populations and future generations.

Timeline

Submission of applications: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 – Monday, February 1, 2027

Awards Announcement: April 22, 2027

To apply, you will need to complete all parts of the application form available below starting at 12:00 a.m. on 11/17/2026 and until 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time on 02/01/2027.

Jurisdiction

Open to eligible participants in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

Initiative Targets

The Award is intended for 'Beginning Farmer' who have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity on the application deadline date (February 1, 2027).

Participation Requirements:

Application Submission:

To apply, you will need to complete all parts of the application form starting at 12:00 a.m. on 11/17/2026 and until 11:00 p.m. ET on 02/01/2027.

The application form requires the following fields to be filled in, each of which determines the score assigned by the Jury:

Section 1 - General applicant information.

Section 2 - Farm/Ranch Overview and Practices. *(Brief description of farm/ranch, regenerative practices used, details regarding specific regenerative farming practices, number/type of certifications, current challenges/barriers to farming.)*

Section 3 - Project Proposal - Use of award money. *(Cost estimate and description of how award money will be used across one or more categories, specific goals, and timeline.)*

Section 4 - Supporting documentation. *(Business plan, photos of the farm/ranch - before and after shots of any projects, if applicable, 2 Letters of recommendation or testimonials from mentors, customers or community members.)*

Section 5 - Personal Statement. (*Farming journey and passion for regenerative organic farming.)*

Section 6 - Declaration and Signature. *(Acknowledgment of the award guidelines and agreement to adhere to all requirements.)*

Please also note that once the form is submitted, no changes can be made.

Award Stages and Award:

The selection process to identify the final awardee is carried out at the sole discretion of the Jury and consists of three primary stages:

Stage 1: Check Eligibility Requirements

At the close of the application submission deadline (11:00 p.m. on 2/01/27), the team of Davines Group and Rodale Institute will check the applications received for compliance with the eligibility criteria. Applications deemed eligible will then move on to the second stage of evaluation.

Stage 2: Evaluation and Scoring

Applications will be evaluated by an internal review team and the Jury (see "JURY COMPOSITION" section) comprised of experts in farming, agriculture, biodiversity protection, and agroecology. The jury will assess production strategies based on strength of the project proposal, commitment to organic and regenerative organic agriculture, and potential impact of the proposed work, assigning each submission a score from 1 to 5.

Scores will determine a ranked list of the top 10 candidates. The top entry will be declared the award recipient, with the 2nd place recipient as an alternate if the selected candidate declines the grant (as outlined in the section below - NOTICE AND CONFIRMATION OF AWARD RECIPIENT).

Stage 3: Notice and Confirmation of Award Recipient

Each recipient will be notified via email by **h.kleinert@davines.us** and must keep the award confidential until the Award Ceremony on April 22, 2027, to avoid interfering with event communications and press activities.

The recipients must confirm acceptance of the award by responding within 3 calendar days of receiving the notification. Failure to do so may result in the award being given to the next candidate in the ranking.

If the awardee declines the distinction, they must notify Davines North America promptly. This decision is final and cannot be revoked. The waiver must be formalized in writing via email, after which Davines North America may proceed to offer the recognition to the next candidate in the ranking.

The first place award recipient will receive $10,000 from Davines North America to invest in equipment and initiatives that elevate their agroecological efforts. They will also receive an all-expenses-paid trip (valued at $5,000) to the European Regenerative

Organic Center (EROC) in Parma, Italy—a premier research and training hub connected to the Davines Group Village.

The second place award recipient will receive $5,000 from Davines North America to invest in equipment and initiatives that elevate their agroecological efforts, along with an all-expenses-paid trip (valued at $2,500) to Rodale Institute in Kutztown, PA.

All awardees will gain significant visibility through Davines North America and Rodale Institute communication channels, including a dedicated campaign, media outreach, website announcements, social media posts, and their respective newsletters.

Participants acknowledge that recipients may be photographed, filmed, and interviewed to promote The Good Farmer Award U.S. and advance awareness of regenerative organic farming. These materials may be used for media relations and Davines North America and Rodale Institute social media. Awardees will be required to sign a release for image use, in compliance with applicable regulations.

Jury Composition

The Jury consists of a diverse panel of experts drawn from various fields related to farming, agriculture, biodiversity protection, and agroecology. This includes professionals with extensive experience in sustainable farming practices, agricultural innovation, as well as specialists in conserving ecosystems and protecting biodiversity. The panel features thought leaders and practitioners in agriculture, known for their expertise in integrating ecological principles into farming systems to promote sustainability, resilience, and environmental health. Together, this multidisciplinary jury ensures a comprehensive and informed evaluation process, bringing diverse perspectives and deep knowledge to the assessment of submissions.

Contact

If you have any questions or experience any technical difficulties submitting the application form, please contact: **GoodFarmerAwards@rodaleinstitute.org.**