

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT STEWARDSHIP AWARD
Kansas Bankers Association

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in fish and wildlife habitat management in Kansas by giving recognition to landowners who have made outstanding progress in the development and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

SPONSOR: Kansas Bankers Association

COOPERATING GROUPS:

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
State Conservation Commission
Kansas State University, K-State Research and Extension
USDA, Farm Services Agency
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kansas Department of Agriculture
County Conservation Districts

PROCEDURE:

I. Recognition of individuals

1. Nominations for recognition of individuals will be made to the District Biologist, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Nominations may be made by any person, on appropriate nomination blanks and shall be in the hands of the Committee by November 1.

2. The selection of individuals to receive awards will be made by the following committee:

The local Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks District Biologist or the Regional Supervisor, County Key Banker, and one of the following on a rotating basis: NRCS District Conservationist, County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, or Chairman of the FSA Local Committee. Wildlife and Parks must approve all recipients. The recipient does not have to be a participant in the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program.

Selection will be made on overall habitat quality, quantity, maintenance, and enhancements on the entire farm. Some parameters to look for include: grazing and haying practices, field borders, food plots, tillage practices, waterways, terraces, crop rotation, native grass, winter cover, nesting cover, brood rearing cover, fenced out areas, and farm pond enhancement. The selection committee may place more emphasis on certain parameters based on knowledge of habitat needs in the local area. The above parameters are not all-inclusive, but only serve as a guide to total farm habitat improvements. Selection should be based on the farm's overall impact on wildlife populations. Habitat can be more intensively managed on smaller acreage, yet total resource conservation on larger farms may impact a larger variety and population of wildlife.

AWARD MATERIALS:

Each District Award Winner will receive a framed certificate, framed wildlife print, and a metal sign to be displayed at their property. The state winner will receive a plaque and framed wildlife print. The national winner will receive a plaque, expense paid trip to the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies annual meeting and possibly other items. There are additional criteria to qualify for application with the national AFWA award.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD: Award will be given annually unless the selection committee decides that an award not be given in any one year, if in their opinion the award is not deserved. The District Biologist, County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the County Key Banker will make plans for the presentation of the awards at a county-wide agricultural meeting or special meeting that would occur at this time.