

# 2009-2011 CULTIVATING MASTER FARMER PROGRAM APPLICATION For Young Farmers

## **MISSION**

The Cultivating Master Farmer Program (CMF) is designed to unite Illinois farmers of different generations through the exchange of personal ideas, knowledge and production experience.

## **THE PROGRAM**

The CMF brings together a class of young farmers/couples and Prairie Farmer's Master Farmers for an exchange of knowledge. This program is unique because of its flexible curriculum driven by each class of participants.

During a two-year period, the program will consist of six to seven scheduled events, outside of harvest and planting seasons. Past meetings have been held in conjunction with other statewide agriculture events like the Farm Progress Show and Illinois Farm Bureau's Young Leader Conference.

The format for each session is selected by the class and can include round table discussions, farm tours and interactive speakers with topics being selected by the group.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Young farmers/couples must meet the following criteria:

- Must live in Illinois
- Between 21-36 years of age as of December 31, 2008. (*Must not have reached their 37<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to December 31, 2008*)
- Actively engaged in production agriculture
- Willing to commit to the two-year class
- Applicant may not be an employee of any of the sponsors
- Applicant does not have to be a member or customer of any of the sponsors

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The goal is to foster information sharing and bring together a class whose interaction is beneficial to the group as a whole. The selection process is dynamic, not merit-driven. Class members will be selected on management, innovation, and self-initiative that they displayed in their farm operation. Significant factors include:

- Type of operation
- Knowledge and skill set
- Desired outcome from program participation
- Geographic location
- Availability and level of commitment

Because class dynamics will vary, those not selected are encouraged to resubmit their application for future CMF classes.

## **ENTRY DEADLINES & SCHEDULE OF PROCEDURES**

- Applications must be postmarked on or before March 31, 2009, and mailed to: **CMF Program, Prairie Farmer, 1301 East Mound Road, Decatur, IL 62526.**
- A selection committee will review all applications in April/May of 2009.
- Selection committee will consist of representatives of sponsoring organizations.
- Applicants will be notified of the selection results by June 1, 2009.
- All information submitted on this application form is HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are to be used when completing the CMF application

- Answer all questions
- **DO NOT** attach any additional documents to the application form (e.g. FBFM computer printouts, etc.)
- Use only the space provided. **DO NOT** attach any additional pages
- Do not retype the application form

## **SIGNATURES**

The cover page (page 1) must also have the signature of a nominating industry representative. This signature will authorize the entry as an official candidate of the CMF Program. A nominating industry may submit as many entries as they wish. Nominating industries can be, but not exclusive to:

- Local agriculture organizations (County Farm Bureau®, Commodity Groups, etc.)
- Lender (Farm Credit, Bank, etc.)
- Local ag supplier (i.e. FS cooperative, chemical rep, seed dealer, etc.)
- Governmental ag agency (i.e. Extension Service, FSA, IDOA, etc.)
- Local elevator
- Implement dealerships
- Past CMF Class Members

## **AWARDS**

Upon completion of the CMF Program, class members will receive a certificate of graduation. Class members may also have the opportunity (on a voluntary basis) for media coverage throughout the program.

## **SPONSORS**

The following companies sponsor the Cultivating Master Farmer Program:

**Prairie Farmer**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Farm Credit Services**  
**GROWMARK, Inc.**

**Illinois Farm Bureau®**  
**Farm Credit Services of Illinois**  
**Monsanto**

# 2009-2011 CULTIVATING MASTER FARMER PROGRAM APPLICATION

**NOTE:** *The applicant should carefully read through this entry form before filling out any part of it. Entry forms must be postmarked on or before March 31, 2009 and mailed to **CMF Program, Prairie Farmer, 1301 East Mound Road, Decatur, IL 62526.** (Type or print. Computer template is available upon request.)*

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Does your spouse plan to participate in the program?  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
3. City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_
4. County \_\_\_\_\_
5. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_
6. Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Date of Birth Husband (H) \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth Wife (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_
8. Education/degree H - \_\_\_\_\_ W - \_\_\_\_\_  
 College major H - \_\_\_\_\_ W - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Short courses or other specialized study (H) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Short courses or other specialized study (W) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Number of children \_\_\_\_\_ Ages \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) hereby certify the information on this application to be accurate and true statements, made to the best of our ability. I (We) also understand that if selected, I will be expected to attend scheduled events and functions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Applicant

I (We) hereby nominate this applicant(s) for the Cultivating Master Farmer Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title and Business

(This page and the following pages will be used for selection process) **INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.**

**2009-11**  
**CULTIVATING MASTER FARMER PROGRAM APPLICATION**

NOTE: This application should reflect the current status of your operation.

**I. FARMING OPERATION**

A. Describe your operation (include what makes is unique) and your responsibilities.

B. Totals acres farmed \_\_\_\_\_ Total acres applicant owns \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years farming \_\_\_\_\_

C.       \* List major crops                               List major livestock enterprises                               List other major enterprises


***\*Indicate if irrigated***



**IV. PROGRAM INTERESTS/OFFERINGS**

A. What do you feel you can offer to other classmates?

B. Industry and management interests - Please check all of the items listed below that you would like to improve your knowledge/skill level or could provide some expertise on through this program.

<u>Want to Improve on</u>	<u>Can offer group</u>		<u>Want to Improve on</u>	<u>Can Offer group</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Association/community/political involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	New technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crisis management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-traditional practices
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Office organization
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cost efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ownership vs. leasing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Creating your own opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Production practices
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering expertise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public relations (How to win friends and influence people, farm resume)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Problem solving
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Record keeping
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relationship building
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Identifying and marketing your skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retirement planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry trends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk management
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership (How, when and if?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Success factors
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Livestock trends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tax law
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-range planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work/personal life balance
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: (describe below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negotiating (leases, contracts, etc.)			