

PREVIOUS NRD **HALL OF FAME** INDUCTEES

Hall of Fame (Director)

- 2013 – Dick Mercer (Central Platte)
- 2014 – Walter Fick (Upper Elkhorn)
- 2015 – Mary Ann Wortmann (Lewis & Clark)
- 2016 – James Irwin (Upper Niobrara White)
- 2017 – Dean Rasmussen (Lower Loup)
- 2018 – Keith Rexroth (South Platte)
- 2019 – James Nelson (Lower Loup)
- 2020 – W. Eugene Haarberg (Upper Republican)
- 2021 – Ted Hughes (Upper Elkhorn)
- 2022 – Jim Bendfeldt (Central Platte NRD)
- 2023 – Darwin Anderson (Lower Loup NRD)
- 2024 – Larry Moore (Upper Big Blue NRD)
- 2025 – Jim Meisner (Twin Platte NRD)
- 2026 – Marcel Kramer (Lewis & Clark NRD)

Hall of Fame (Employee)

- 2013 – Ron Bishop (Central Platte)
- 2014 – Dan Smith (Middle Republican)
- 2015 – John Turnbull (Upper Big Blue)
- 2016 – Glenn Johnson (Lower Platte South)
- 2017 – Ron Fleecs (Lower Big Blue)
- 2018 – Ron Milner (Upper Republican)
- 2019 – Tom Moser (Lewis & Clark)
- 2020 – Butch Koehlmoos (Lower Loup)
- 2021 – No Nominations
- 2022 – Marlin Petermann (Papio-Missouri River)

2023 – Kent Miller (Twin Platte NRD)
2024 – Stan Staab (Lower Elkhorn NRD)
2025 – John Miyoshi (Lower Platte North NRD)
2026 – Jane Kuhl (Nemaha NRD)

Hall of Fame (Supporter)

2013 – Maurice Kremer (Upper Big Blue)
2014 – Warren Fairchild (Upper Big Blue)
2015 – Jim Cook (Upper Big Blue)
2016 – Dayle Williamson (Lower Big Blue)
2017 – Gayle Starr (Lower Big Blue)
2018 – Don McCabe (Central Platte)
2019 – Tom Pesek (Lower Big Blue)
2020 – Doug Bereuter (Upper Big Blue)
2021 – No Nominations
2022 – Susan Olafsen-Lackey (Lewis & Clark)
2023 – Jim Cannia (Lower Platte South)
2024 – Dan Hughes (Upper Republican)
2025 – Marty Link (Upper Niobrara White)
2026 – Patrick Cowsert (Lower Elkhorn)

PREVIOUS NRD CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

Director of the Year

2005 – Keith Rexroth (South Platte)
2006 – Jim Olson (North Platte)
2007 – Wayne Davis (Upper Niobrara White)
2008 – Jim Nelson (Lower Loup)
2009 – Nelson Trambly (Lower Republican)
2010 – Jim Irwin (Upper Niobrara White)
2011 – Jim Bendfeldt (Central Platte)

2012 – Judy Ridenour (Upper Loup)
2013 – Orval Gigstad (Nemaha NRD)
2014 – David Kadlecsek (Upper Niobrara White)
2015 – Bill Vasey (Central Platte)
2016 – Richard Hadenfeldt (Lower Loup)
2017 – Jim Johnson (South Platte)
2018 – Don Kavan (Lower Platte North)
2019 – Steve Kelley (Lower Big Blue)
2020 – Terry Martin (Upper Republican)
2021 – Ed Kyes (Central Platte)
2022 – Larry Moore (Upper Big Blue)
2023 – Marcel Kramer (Lewis & Clark)
2024 – Judy Ridenour (Upper Loup)
2025 – Mark Seier (Lower Platte North)
2026 – Dean Large (Upper Republican)

Educator of the Year

2006 – Dave Barnard (Little Blue & Lower Republican)
2007 – Dan Scherer (Central Platte)
2008 – Dave Gibbens (Upper Elkhorn)
2009 – Dave Ference (Lower Loup)
2010 – Tracie Chapo (Lower Platte South)
2011 – Alan Held (South Platte)
2012 – Kevin Wetovick (Lower Loup)
2013 – Jan Zink (Nemaha)
2014 – David Berens (Little Blue)
2015 – Mike Kozeal (Lower Loup)
2016 – Ken Malone (Nemaha)
2017 – Dennis Mottl (Lower Loup)
2018 – Philip Simpson (Lower Loup)

2019 – Patrick Kratochvil & Suzy Foley (Lower Elkhorn)
2020 – Boyd Bowder (Lower Loup)
2021 – Sharla Hanzlik (Lower Niobrara)
2022 – Laura Cooney (primary; Twin Platte) and Kelly Guggenmos (secondary, Lower Loup)
2023 – Zeta Green (Upper Loup)
2024 – Jessica Evan (Lower Elkhorn)
2025 – Joel Miller (Upper Big Blue)
2026 – DJ Mottl (Lower Elkhorn)

Tree Planter of the Year Award

2005 – Dewain & Katharine Lockwood (South Platte)
2006 – Dave Hillferty (Upper Republican)
2007 – Deen Johnson (Upper Niobrara White)
2008 – Nienhueser Farms (South Platte)
2009 – Keven & Cindy Galloway (Middle Niobrara)
2010 – Bob Brandt (Nemaha)
2011 – Leroy Yung (South Platte)
2012 – Dan & Shirley Carson (Upper Loup)
2013 – Forney Ranch (Upper Niobrara White)
2014 – Lowery Land & Livestock (Lower Loup)
2015 – Steve Schumacher (South Platte)
2016 – Robert Price Family (Lower Loup)
2017 – Scott Trost (South Platte)
2018 – Jerry Fullerton (Middle Niobrara)
2019 – Doak Nickerson (Upper Niobrara White)
2020 – Terry Hoit (Lower Republican)
2021 – Diamond Bar Ranch – Jones Family (Upper Loup)
2022 – Dennis & Teri Taylor (Lower Niobrara)
2023 – Brian Moes Family (Lower Elkhorn)
2024 – Michael Nissen Family (Lower Elkhorn)

2025 – Matt & Jill Keating (Lower Niobrara)

2026 – Doug & Becky Nordhues (Lower Elkhorn)

Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award

2005 – Greg & Susan Gehl and Lee & Jane Loseke (Lower Loup)

2006 – Dale Matschullat (Upper Elkhorn)

2007 – Foster Cattle Company (Middle Niobrara)

2008 – Tecker Ranch (Upper Republican)

2009 – Robert Simmons (Middle Niobrara)

2010 – Pat Hruby (Lower Loup)

2011 – Sundstrom Family (Twin Platte)

2012 – Steve & Pam Reed (Upper Loup)

2013 – Alvin Kruml (Lower Loup)

2014 – Matt & Mia Varra (South Platte)

2015 – Doug & Theresa Keller (South Platte)

2016 – Lemoyne Dailey (Upper Loup)

2017 – Waits Ranch (Twin Platte)

2018 – The Mathewson Family (South Platte)

2019 – Schulte Family (Lower Loup)

2020 – Star Cattle Company (Twin Platte)

2021 – Chris Larsen (Central Platte)

2022 – No winners selected

2023 – Mark Alberts (Central Platte)

2024 – Northeast Nebraska Prescribed Burn Association (Lewis & Clark)

2025 – Jake Miller (Middle Republican)

2026 – No Nominations

Outstanding Community Conservation Award

2005 – Erickson Lake Corporation (Lower Loup)

2006 – Julie Dewing (Middle Niobrara)

2007 – No nominations

2008 – Centennial Park and Arboretum (Little Blue)

2009 – City of Ord (Lower Loup)

2010 – No nominations

2011 – Benkelman Tree Board (Upper Republican)

2012 – Big Springs Pond Project (South Platte)

2013 – City of Sidney (South Platte)

2014 – City of Sidney (South Platte) **Won the previous year, but for different reasons/people*

2015 – Big Indian Archers (Lower Big Blue)

2016 – Mullen Public Schools (Upper Loup)

2017 – Western Nebraska Community College (South Platte)

2018 – Dan Kathol (Lewis & Clark)

2019 – Niobrara High School (Lower Niobrara)

2020 – City of Norfolk (Lower Elkhorn)

2021 – Curt Arens (Lewis & Clark)

2022 – City of York/Project Grow (Upper Big Blue)

2023 – Bob Hansen (Lewis & Clark)

2024 – Southeast Nebraska Memorial Garden (Nemaha)

2025 – Nebraska Memorial Forest (Little Blue)

2026 – Larry Eisenhower (Lewis & Clark)

Outstanding Soil Stewardship Conservation Award

2017 – Ben & Paula Sue Steffen (Nemaha)

2018 – Scott & Barbara Gonnerman (Upper Big Blue)

2019 – Nick & Rose Keller (Lower Niobrara)

2020 – Dan & Melinda Stelling (Lower Elkhorn)

2021 – Jeff & Jolene Steffen (Lewis & Clark)

2022 – Dave & Alex Daake (Upper Big Blue)

2023 – Darryl Obermeyer (Nemaha)

2024 – Keith Berns (Little Blue)

2025 – Hank McGowen (Upper Big Blue)

2026 – Doug Steffen (Lewis & Clark)

Outstanding Water Conservation Award (New in 2022)

2022 – John Krohn (Lower Loup)

2023 – Dave Condon (Lewis & Clark)

2024 – Paul Hay (posthumously) and Randy Pryor (Lower Big Blue)

2025 – Bow Creek Watershed Mentor Group (Lewis & Clark)

2026 – Shane & Beth Lechtenberg (Lower Niobrara)