



J.B. Pritzker, Governor
Jerry Costello II, Director

Bureau of County Fairs and Horse Racing

State Fairgrounds ♦ P.O. Box 19281 ♦ Springfield, IL 62794-9281 ♦ County Fairs 217/524-0666
Standardbred ♦ Thoroughbred ♦ Quarter Horse 217/785-0106 ♦ TDD 217/524-6858 ♦ Fax 217/524-6194

TO: County Fair Officials
FROM: Jeannette Watkins, County Fair Administrator
DATE: **April 30, 2025**
RE: 2024 “Outstanding County Fair Person of the Year” Award

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Nomination Form to nominate this year’s “Outstanding County Fair Person of the Year”. Please take the time to nominate a deserving person for this award. All nominations are to be submitted by **Friday, July 11, 2025**, to:

Illinois Department of Agriculture
Bureau of County Fairs & Horse Racing, Jeannette Watkins
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281
FAX: 217/524-6194
EMAIL: Jeannette.M.Watkins@illinois.gov

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at 217/524-0666 or
Jeannette.M.Watkins@illinois.gov.

Thank you and I hope to see you on Thursday, August 7th at the 2025 County Fair Day!

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2025

“OUTSTANDING COUNTY FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR” AWARD

Each year, the Illinois Department of Agriculture recognizes and honors a county fair person who has exhibited qualities of outstanding character and/or exemplary performance and service. Please review the information below concerning the 2025 County Fair Person of the Year Award and make your nominations!

PURPOSE: To recognize and honor a county fair supporter exhibiting qualities of outstanding or exemplary service to, or in support of, Illinois county fairs. They may have qualities that help others, that inspire, lift morale and motivate, or they may be making an outstanding contribution to the agricultural community or to fairs at large.

SELECTION CRITERIA: (may include one or more of the following)

- 1) Present themselves and Illinois county fairs in a positive light, advancing the perception of the agriculture industry and Illinois county fairs in general.
- 2) Improve public understanding of the important role county fairs play in Illinois agriculture.
- 3) Benefit others by giving time, ideas or advice concerning county fairs and agriculture-related causes including some, or all, of the following:
 - Relationship with the community
 - Relationship with fellow board members and officers of all county fair boards
 - Illustration of dedication to Illinois county fairs
 - Contributions to the agriculture industry
 - Innovations brought to the individual's own county fair or county fairs in general

ELIGIBILITY: All County Fair Board Members and Officers of County Fairs Operating Under the Agricultural Fair Act are eligible.

WHO MAY NOMINATE: Any County Fair Board Member or Officer of an Illinois County Fair may nominate a candidate for County Fair Person of the Year.

HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION: Use the Nomination Form attached or submit a memorandum that includes information asked in consideration for the award. (Feel free to make copies.) County Fair Board Members and Officers may submit as many Nomination Forms as they wish. All nominations should be submitted to the Bureau of County Fairs and Horse Racing by **Friday, July 11, 2025.**

SELECTION: A Selection Committee designated by the Department will select the “County Fair Person of the Year”.

Name and phone number of a person on your fair board that the committee could contact should there be questions or if your nomination is chosen:

Contact Name and/or Name of person making Nomination

Telephone Number

2025 NOMINATION FORM

“OUTSTANDING COUNTY FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR” AWARD

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children:

Nominee's county and fair representing: _____

Number of years served on county fair board: _____

Offices held/involvement with county fair board: _____

Other community activities: _____

Endorsement and Support/Comments (i.e., examples that illustrate your reason for the nomination):

Additional information may be added.

RETURN TO:

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

c/o Jeannette Watkins, Bureau of County Fairs & Horse Racing

P.O. Box 19281

Springfield, IL 62794-9281

FAX: 217/524-6194

EMAIL: Jeannette.M.Watkins@illinois.gov