2026
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

The Western North Carolina Agricultural Hall of Fame was established in 1991 by the Board of Directors of the Western North Carolina Community Development Association, Inc., now known as WNC Communities.

The Western North Carolina Agriculture Hall of Fame was established to:

• Honor significant contributions to agriculture

• Recognize individuals who have been responsible for agricultural advancement

• Encourage, improve, and promote agriculture and agribusiness in Western North Carolina

Selection of members for the Western North Carolina Agriculture Hall of Fame is conducted annually, and the general public is invited to submit nominations for this honor according to the following guidelines and judging criteria.

Program Managed By:

WNC Communities
594 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806
828-252-4783

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATION

An individual or organization may complete nominations, and the following must be received at WNC Communities by **Monday, April 6, 2026,** for the Committee's consideration:

- Completed Nomination Form (attached)
- Two letters of recommendation (maximum of five)
- Narrative ***with section headings*** that elaborate on the following:
    - Geographical area the nominee impacted or served;
    - Educational and professional background information;
    - Impacts and outcomes in the field of agriculture ;
    - Accomplishments and accolades focusing on agriculture, including, but not limited to, awards, honors, organizations, and offices held;
    - Nominee's pioneer status in the field of agriculture and/or the innovation the nominee was responsible for.
- A current picture (headshot) of the nominee will be necessary. If the nominee is selected, the photo will be used for the plaque and promotional materials.
- Additional relevant materials, such as newspaper clippings, brochures, etc. (these are not required but are helpful and welcome).

The WNC Agricultural Hall of Fame Committee has no obligation to reconsider previous nominees. However, previous nominations will be considered if the nomination package is updated with current documentation. Posthumous nominations are appropriate and will be considered.

The nominee need not be a native of Western North Carolina, nor need they be living in Western North Carolina at the time of recognition. However, the accomplishments for which the individual is being nominated must have been specifically beneficial to this area. The nominee should be an exceptional, upstanding member of the community with integrity beyond reproach. The WNC Agricultural Hall of Fame reserves the right to revoke an individual's membership for just cause.

The formal announcement and induction of this year's members will take place at a luncheon on Friday, **August 7, 2026,** at the WNC Agricultural Center – Davis Event Center in Fletcher. Inductees will be included in promotional material designed for public distribution. A metal plaque embossed with the new inductee's picture and a brief outline of their contributions will be installed with the display of the other members at the Davis Event Center. A duplicate of the plaque may be purchased for new inductees for their own use. The cost of the duplicate is approximately $600, and the plaque can be presented during the ceremony as a gift from family and/or friends. Alternatively, a framed certificate can be presented at the ceremony at no cost.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Area of coverage, influence and impact in all twenty counties (Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) as well as areas outside Western North Carolina are considered. An impact in only one county, with minimal impact in surrounding counties, may not receive full points during the review process.

A clear and solid involvement in the agricultural field is essential; other endeavors, while important in the overall context of the individual's life, will not be the primary consideration. The content or value of an individual's contributions is compared to the standard that the previous inductees have set. The Committee seeks individuals who were pioneers in their field; this includes those who were innovative and made new and lasting advancements and impacts.

2026 PROGRAM TIMELINE

February 24 - Nomination forms released
April 6 - Nomination forms due
Week of April 20 - Submitters notified of the status of nominee selection
August 7 - Induction ceremony

WNC Communities will coordinate with the listed contact persons to notify the selected nominees. Contact persons should be available to assist with notifying the selected recipient, collecting biographical information to develop the plaque, and collecting guest contact information.

2026 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME
NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone:_____ email: _____

Please Check One: ____ Living Nominee ____ Posthumous Nominee

Nominee and/or family aware of the nomination: _____ YES _____ NO

Organization submitting nomination: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Email address: _____

The completed nomination package materials (see below) must be received by April 6, 2026:

● This completed nomination form	● Photo (headshot)
● First recommendation letter	● Narrative ***with section headings*** including geographical area impacted, education, impacts and outcomes, accomplishments, honors, awards, and pioneer status.
● Second recommendation letter	

To submit nomination packages by mail or hand delivery, address to:

Dana Brown, Agricultural Programs Manager
WNC Communities
594 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806

To submit nomination packages by email, send nomination form and all attachments to:
danabrown@wnccommunities.org

If you have questions, call WNC Communities: 828-252-4783

WNC AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2025
Bascom "Bass" Hyatt - Clay
Dr. Jim Walgenbach - Henderson

2024
James Ferguson - Haywood
Lee Rankin - Avery

2023
Kenny Barnwell - Henderson
Carol Coulter - Ashe

2022
Dr. Greg Hoyt - Henderson
Dennis Niemeyer - Henderson

2020
Terry Rogers - Haywood
Steve Troxler – Guilford

2019
Theron Larnce Maybin Sr.- Henderson
L.T. Ward - Buncombe

2018
Michael R. Corn – Buncombe
William A. Holbrook – Haywood

2017
William Waightstill Avery– Avery
W. Charles "Charlie" Jackson– Buncombe

2016
John M. Queen, III – Haywood
Don R. Smart – Haywood

2015
William C. "Bill" Parton – Burke
Walter A. Skroch – Ashe

2014
Kenneth R. Reeves – Buncombe
Dr. C.R. "Dick" Unrath – Henderson

2013
David L. Lee – Buncombe
Roger Hyatt – Graham

2012
Layten Davis – Madison
Gwyn B. Price (P) – Ashe
(P) – Posthumous Award

2011
William H. Teague – Buncombe
Bill Yarborough - Haywood

2010
Ronald Lamb - Henderson
Charles Ziegler - Transylvania

2009
Linda Ford – Buncombe
Thomas Thrash - Buncombe

2008
Neal Stamey – Haywood
Jerry Sutton – Macon

2007
J. D. Brooks – Alleghany
Albert Plemmons – Transylvania

2006
Robert Shipley – Watauga
Dr. Paul Shoemaker – Henderson

2005
William A. "Bill" Edmondson - Martin
J. L. "Bud" Sales, Jr. – Buncombe

2004
Albert Miles Clark – Buncombe
Wilburn Bryan Collins – Alleghany

2003
Patricia O. Brinkley – Buncombe
William N. Aldridge – Avery

2002
James R. "Jim" Edwards – Haywood
Sam Cartner – Avery

2001
Richard G. Jennings – Haywood
Ernst R. Laursen – Buncombe

2000
William S. Enloe – Henderson
Robert L. "Jack" Lyday – Swain

1999
Dr. Randy G. Gardner – Henderson
Dr. David R. Burnette – Buncombe

1998
Jacob F. Grigg – Madison
Evelyn M. Hill – Henderson

1997
J. Kenneth Perry (P)
George H.V. Cecil – Buncombe
Liston B. Ramsey – Madison

1996
Dr. James E. Shelton – Henderson
B.F. Nesbitt – Henderson

1995
J.D. Cooley – Rutherford
Charles "Pink" Francis – Haywood

1994
Dwight W. Bennett – Henderson
Harley E. Blackwell – Henderson
James A. Graham - Raleigh

1993
S.E. Johnston, Jr. – Henderson
Charles "Jack" Messer – Haywood
D. Reeves Noland (P) – Haywood
Harry G. Silver – Buncombe
John B. Veach – Buncombe

1992
R. Theodore "Bob" Bullington – Henderson
Robert B. Phillips – Mitchell
Dr. Carl A. Schenck - Buncombe

1991
Richard L. Barber, Jr. – Haywood
James Clayton Davis - Haywood
Dr. Thomas R. Konsler – NCSU
Morris L. "Mac" McGough – Buncombe
Clyde K. Osborne - Transylvania
Denver D. Robinson – Cary
George W. Vanderbilt (P) – Buncombe
E.J. Whitmire – Macon