

2026 ACTION PLAN

Committee: Awards Training

Award & Recognition Vice President – Donna Jung

Committee Chair: Natalie Snowden, (TX) natalie.snowden@ag.tamu.edu

Committee Chair-elect: Jamie Mahlandt, (IL) knuf@illinois.edu

Committee Apprentice: Tristin Bolton, (AR) tbolton@uada.edu

Committee Past Chair: Diane Reinhold, (IL) dreinhol@illinois.edu

Committee leadership team: Committee chair, chair-elect, apprentice, and past chair.

Strategic Plan Goal:

- Review and adjust awards reflecting the current trends of programming done by NEAFCS members.
- Promote new award categories.
- Increase the number of award applications.
- Recognize and promote excellence and scholarship within NEAFCS programming.

Committee Goal: Increase member participation within the NEAFCS awards program.

Objectives: Educate members on applying for online national awards and putting together a successful awards application package.

Action Step		Name of Person Completing Task	Due Date
1	The leadership team meets with the VP of Award and a team member from the NEAFCS office to schedule leadership meetings for the new term. The leadership team should meet at least 6 times during the term to plan and discuss topics such as the content for the articles article authors, solicit and secure an Apprentice for the committee, develop and write the following year's Action Plan,	Committee Leadership team VP of Awards NEAFCS Admin team member	Before or by: November 15, 2025

Action Step	Name of Person Completing Task	Due Date
ensure the current Action Plan is being implemented, and write a conference proposal to present training at the Annual Conference, write and develop the conference presentation, plan the Nov/Dec Awards Training webinar and other tasks written within the Action Plan, and other needs not specified.		
2 Send emails to all 2025 award winners asking them to: Encourage a peer to apply for an award and mentor them through the process	VP Awards & Recognition, NEAFCS Admin Office	Before or by: November 30, 2025
3 Contribute articles to the quarterly NEAFCS newsletter Provide content for articles 1. December (November 20) 2. March (January 20) 3. June (January 20) 4. September (January 20) Article topics will offer information on the Awards program to increase awareness of the available resources, important deadlines, and practical tips for writing a successful award application. Articles should be peer-reviewed by at least two leadership team members before they are submitted to the VP Awards for publication in the newsletter. Must use the newsletter article templates; maximum word count of 200 words per article; the author must submit a headshot with each article.	Committee Leadership team Natalie (Chair) Jamie (Chari-elect) Tristin (Apprentice) Diane (Past-chair)	Send articles to VP Awards and Recognition. Due dates for articles: December - 11/20/2025 Articles 2-4 due: 01/20/2026

Action Step	Name of Person Completing Task	Due Date
Due date for articles: December 20 for the first article. The remaining articles should be written, peer-reviewed, and sent to the VP of Awards by January 20. This will help ensure content is written and received promptly.		
4 Implement an Award Challenge for all NEAFCS Members Create an online registration system for previous award winners to outwardly commit to encouraging and mentoring peers to apply for awards in the coming awards season. Include the name of the NEAFCS member and their State Affiliate, the name of the member they wish to mentor, and the affiliate with whom they will work. Ideally, we could track this and see if it is beneficial in increasing participation in the Awards program, more complete applications (some people apply and do not follow the instructions, which often results in very low-scoring applications), and overall better understanding of the Awards program. Ask the previous award winners to commit in writing by signing up for and sharing the name of the person they intend to encourage and mentor through the award's process for 2026	VP of Awards NEAFCS Admin Office Committee Leadership team	Before or by: January 15, 2026
5 Conduct a webinar training for awards during November or December. Historically, this is the same training presented at the Annual Conference. The committee chair will contact the Vice President of Awards and Recognition and the NEAFCS National Office to coordinate and schedule a web-based training for NEAFCS members. This training will ensure the leadership team receives the necessary support to implement the session effectively.	Committee Leadership team VP of Awards NEAFCS Admin team member	Before or by: 12/15/2026

Action Step		Name of Person Completing Task	Due Date
	If the committee cannot present during the Annual Conference due to limited capacity, they will present a training via a webinar created by the training committee in November or December. This training is intended to provide information on any changes and updates related to the Awards Training Manual and the Awards process. If no changes or updates are made, the committee will present information related to helping award applicants apply for awards, encouragement, and time for questions from members.		
6	Submit a Concurrent Session application to present for Award Training at the Annual Session.	Committee Leadership team VP of Awards	Due February 1, 2026
7	The leadership team will seek nominations for the Awards Training Committee Apprentice and select the apprentice. The leadership team will share the committee requirements, time commitments, and committee expectations with the apprentice nominees so nominees can make an informed decision regarding their availability to serve within the leadership team of this committee.	Committee Leadership team	April 2026
8	Develop and complete the 2027 Action Plan for the Awards Training Committee. The leadership team will meet with the VP of awards to discuss their desired action steps and plans for the 2027 term.	Committee Leadership team VP of Awards	April 15, 2026
9	The leadership team will meet to create, develop, and peer review the Awards Training for concurrent sessions.	Committee Leadership team VP of Awards	Due September 1
10	Conduct an Awards Training concurrent session at the Annual Conference for award applicants.	Committee Leadership team VP of Awards	September 2026

	Action Step	Name of Person Completing Task	Due Date
11	Offer at least 2-3 Committee Member Meetings to engage all committee members to learn and participate in the work done by the Awards Training Committee. The committee leadership team will work with the VP of Awards and the NEAFCS National Office to coordinate and schedule the web-based events for NEAFCS members. The leadership team will work to determine the members' needs, the topics, and the specific timing of events.	Committee Leadership team VP of Awards NEAFCS Admin team member	Winter – January/February 2026 Spring – April/May Summer – June/July/August