



Texas Environmental Stewardship Award Application

The purpose of the Texas Environmental Stewardship Award Program (TxESAP) is to recognize those cattle producers or land managers who have demonstrated outstanding skill and knowledge in practicing sound range management and care of the rangeland resources. The competitive award is awarded once annually to an individual ranch. Once a ranch has received the award, it is not eligible to receive it again. If more than one ranch is owned and operated by the same person, each ranch is eligible.

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) is a grassroots organization representing 28,000 cattle producers, operators and other businesses of all sizes, backgrounds, ages and incomes located primarily in the Southwest. TSCRA provides law enforcement and livestock inspection services for all land and livestock stewards in Texas and Oklahoma. TSCRA also provides a multitude of benefits including a strong, unified voice for producers and others concerned with legislation and regulation. It is a classroom for cattle producers seeking additional knowledge on how to be more profitable, whether they are just starting out or have been ranching all their lives.

Texas Grazing Land Coalition (TXGLC) is an organization made up of eleven regional coalitions across Texas that works closely with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other partners, including TSCRA and Texas Section of Society for Range Management (TSSRM) as well as Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Wildlife Association and many others. The purpose of the organization is to provide technical assistance and educational opportunities to encourage excellent land stewardship on range and pasture lands in Texas. Regional coalitions are made up of local ranchers sharing ideas and tackling local challenges.

Nomination Information

Nominations shall be made by organizations or individuals well acquainted with ranching and range management practices of the nominee. Nominations may be made by anyone or any entity.

The TxESAP nomination process is two-tiered. The first round includes open nominations submitted in a one-page summary describing the accomplishments of the nominee and addressing evaluation criteria. Nominations should also include letters of support. Three nominees will advance to the second round where the TxESAP review committee will conduct ranch visits. One winner will be selected thereafter.

Awarded recipients must be a member of TSCRA and involvement in TXGLC is favorable. Nominees are not required to be members of National Cattleman's Beef Association but must support the NCBA mission: *working to increase profit opportunities for cattle and beef producers by enhancing the business climate and building consumer demand.*

Advancement Information

The winner of the TxESAP will attend the 2027 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo to receive the award and advances to compete for the NCBA Region IV Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) title. If selected as the regional winner, the ranch competes for the NCBA National Environmental Stewardship Award.

Regional winners will attend the following years' Cattle Industry Annual Convention & NCBA Trade Show. Winners will be honored for their stewardship and receive their award on stage.

Timeline Information

July 2026: TxESAP nominations due

September 2026: Top three ranches selected; ranch visits conducted by TxESAP review committee

October 2026: TXESAP winner announced

March 2027: TSCRA submits winning TxESAP application to NCBA Region IV ESAP

April 2027: TxESAP winner awarded at 2027 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo, Fort Worth

Summer 2027: NCBA Region IV ESAP winner notified; begins working with NCBA for promotion

February 2028: Regional & National award winners announced publicly during the 2028 Cattle Industry Annual Convention & NCBA Trade Show, Nashville, Tennessee

Application Form

Nominee information:

Nominee name: _____

Ranch name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Ranch location: _____

Involvement in organizations: _____

Nominee must have owned/operated the ranch for a minimum of five years: Yes / No

A significant part of the land on the farm or ranch must be rangeland (or grazable woodland):

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| _____ | Acres Rangeland | _____ | Acres Grazable Woodland |
| _____ | Acres Tame Pastureland | _____ | Acres Cropland |
| _____ | Acres Other | _____ | Acres Total |

One page narrative including the following:

- Environmental stewardship practices, accomplishments and goals: *environmentally beneficial management of rangeland resources* (40 points)
- Local, regional and national leadership activities that improve conservation perception of the cattle industry (30 points)
- Economic viability and size of operation (15 points)

Letters of support:

- Endorsements from individuals, cattle groups, conservation organizations and/or government agencies (limited to six pages) (15 points)

Nominator information:

Organization (if applicable): _____

Nominator name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Nominator signature: _____

Mail or email the application form, one-page narrative and letters of endorsement, by July 1, 2026, to TSCRA, Attn Tx ESAP, PO Box 101988, Fort Worth, TX 76185 or to education@tskra.org.