

# NCBA Announces ESAP Winners

*Seven U.S. cattle operations win top environmental award for 2006.*

The members of the 2006 National Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) Selection Committee have announced the seven regional award

winners for 2006, hailing from diverse family cattle operations from across the United States.

“These families have successfully

conducted stewardship practices that can serve as exemplary models for all cattle producers,” committee representatives said. “They are actively working to protect

and improve the environment and have proven that environmental stewardship and good business can go hand-in-hand. Everyone can learn something from these folks and what they do every day.”

The seven regional winners have made extensive efforts to work closely with their local communities and government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to implement conservation programs that benefit everyone. They have seen the value in utilizing tools such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) on their operations. These folks showcase how the implementation of cooperative research efforts, educational events and government programs can really pay off.

“We are also proud to announce that 2006 marks the 16th year of the Environmental Stewardship Award Program,” the committee continued. “Over the years, we have seen an exceptional number of applications, and we look forward to the continued growth of this prestigious award program. We thank Dow AgroSciences LCC and the NRCS for their dedication to sponsoring an award program that honors environmental innovation and perseverance among U.S. cattle producing families.”

The 2006 Regional ESAP Winners are:

- Region I: Blight Family Farms in Albion, Mich., nominated by Michigan State University Extension;
- Region II: Hayston Farms in Mansfield, Ga., nominated by Georgia Cattlemen’s Association;
- Region III: Clan Farms in Atlantic, Iowa, nominated by Iowa Cattlemen’s Association;
- Region IV: San Pedro Ranch in Carrizo Springs, Texas, nominated by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association;
- Region V: Thaler Land & Livestock in Lagrange, Wyo., nominated by Wyoming Stock Growers Association;
- Region VI: Diablo Trust Ranches in Coconino County, Ariz., nominated by Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association; and
- Region VII: Brown’s Gelbvieh Ranch in Bismarck, N.D., nominated by North Dakota Stockmen’s Association.

The 2006 ESAP Selection Committee consists of past award winners, university faculty, federal and state government agencies, and conservation and environmental organizations. The program is administered by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) and sponsored by Dow AgroSciences LCC and the NRCS.

The 2006 national winner will be selected from one of the seven ESAP regional winners and revealed at the 2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 31-Feb. 3.