

## **2026 MATA Awards Program Purposes and Eligibility**

A goal of MATA is to promote and recognize outstanding teachers and programs in agricultural education and effectively communicate success stories. MATA members may apply for more than one professional award however a member may only win one Professional Award per year. The MATA will provide the following award categories:

### Agricultural Program Professional Awards:

- Outstanding Classroom
- Outstanding FFA--Single Teacher Dept
- Outstanding FFA--Multi Teacher Dept
- Outstanding SAE--Single Teacher Dept
- Outstanding SAE--Multi Teacher Dept

Spreading the Word

Agricultural Education Advocate

Teacher of Teachers

Winners of the following awards will have the opportunity to apply for the respective categories for NAAE Region 6 competition: Information on the NAAE applications, including rubrics and instructions, can be found online at <http://www.naae.org/resources/awards/index.cfm#omsp>.

### Membership Excellence Awards

- Outstanding Early Career Teacher Teacher
- Outstanding Agriculture Teacher
- Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agriculture Education Program
- Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program
- Ideas Unlimited
- Teacher Turn The Key
- Outstanding Mentor

### Impact Awards

- Outstanding Service
- Lifetime Achievement
- Visionary Impact

### **Awards and Recognition:**

Winners of MATA only awards (non-NAAE categories) will have a choice of awards as stated on the Cover Page.

Each winner will receive their award and recognition at the annual summer MATA Technical Update and it is expected that award nominees will attend. The deadline for submitting applications to the award committee is May 15th.

The online application and instructions for NAAE awards can be found at <http://www.naae.org/resources/awards/index.cfm#omsp>. All applications will be judged by the MATA Awards Committee as determined by the MATA Executive Board.

## Application Instructions:

### Eligibility:

1. All active MATA members are eligible to apply for MATA awards, NAAE membership required for NAAE awards
2. MATA applicants must have been members of MATA for at least one year prior to applying
3. All teachers in a program must be members of MATA when applying for multi-teacher award categories
4. Previous winners in each category may reapply for this award every three years
5. The 5 required components of the application must be submitted to the Awards Committee Chair by June 5th for evaluation and selection.
6. Both MATA and NAAE award applicants will use this same application (at the state level only for NAAE awards)

The application should be written, compiled and made into a pdf to be submitted electronically by email to [marylandagricultureteachers@gmail.com](mailto:marylandagricultureteachers@gmail.com) . Printed copies of the items below will not be accepted. All supporting documents should also be saved as electronic files for submission. Supported file types include .pdf, .doc, .txt, .jpg, .png, .gif, .tif, or .bmp. Required components of the application are as follows:

#### 1. Cover Page (see attached)

#### 2. Narrative

The narrative is limited to three 8 1/2" x 11" pages and must be typewritten and included with the application. Use a font no smaller than 12 points. Multiple text formats are acceptable, including paragraphs, lists, and tables. The narrative must follow the outline specified as follows:

- a. Overview of category and qualifications (20%).
- b. Program Mission– a brief reflective statement as to the goal and/or philosophy of the award category which you are applying for and how you have met this goal in regards to the award category being applied for (30%).
- c. A minimum of 3 examples of effective classroom, FFA, SAE or a combination thereof ( may be tailored to your award category) activities from the past year to support your application (50%).

#### 3. Supporting Materials

Limited to three 8 1/2" x 11" pages and saved in a format that can be uploaded to the online application. Supporting materials such as photographs with captions, news articles, and other items must be formatted to 8 1/2" x 11".

#### 4. Photograph License & Publicity Release

The application signature page must be signed and submitted electronically as part of your application. Scan the document after securing appropriate signatures.

#### 5. Professional photo or headshot of applicant

A high resolution photo in .gif, .jpeg, .png, .bmp, .jpg, or .tif form must be uploaded as part of the online submission of your application to be used for publicity purposes. Applications for Outstanding Program needs a group photo of those teachers in their program.

## Awards Cover Page (Year: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Years teaching Agriculture Education: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

### MATA Professional Awards Category being applied for:

\_\_\_\_ FFA (Single)      \_\_\_\_ FFA (Multi)      \_\_\_\_ SAE (Single)      \_\_\_\_ SAE (Multi)  
\_\_\_\_ Classroom Instruction      \_\_\_\_ Ag Advocate      \_\_\_\_ Spreading the Word  
\_\_\_\_ Teacher of Teachers (Name of teacher: \_\_\_\_\_)

The **MATA Spreading the Word Award** is designated to recognize MATA members (regular and associate) who publicize activities of agricultural education.

The **MATA Teacher of Teachers Award** is designed to recognize individuals who have former students teaching agriculture.

The **MATA Professional Awards** are designed to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding Agricultural Educators within the areas of an Agricultural Education Program (Classroom, FFA, and SAE). The FFA category is focused on chapter accomplishments and involvement in FFA activities and SAE focuses on accomplishments and involvement of students in SAE activities. The classroom category is for excellence as a classroom teacher. Nominate yourself or a colleague!

If chosen as the award winner, select the award you would want (for the above award categories only):

Awards for single teacher departments:

\_\_\_\_ Transport Wagon (to only be won once)  
\_\_\_\_ \$100

Awards for multi-teacher departments:

\_\_\_\_ Transport Wagon (1/program)  
\_\_\_\_ \$100 per teacher

**ALL** teachers who apply for an MATA or NAAE award will be entered into a drawing for \$100!!!

Must be present at the Summer Technical Update to win.

### NAAE Award Category being applied for (winners receive a plaque and apply as Maryland's nominee for the NAAE Region VI award winner the following year):

#### Membership Excellence

\_\_\_\_ Outstanding Agriculture Teacher      \_\_\_\_ Outstanding Early Career Teacher      \_\_\_\_ Teacher Turn The Key  
\_\_\_\_ Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agriculture Education Program      \_\_\_\_ Ideas Unlimited  
\_\_\_\_ Teacher Mentor      \_\_\_\_ Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program

#### Impact Awards

\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Achievement      \_\_\_\_ Outstanding Service      \_\_\_\_ Visionary Impact

## **Narrative**

Utilize this page (and add pages to total 3 pages as necessary) to submit your narrative.

## **Supplementary Materials**

**Please add links for the following:**

- 1. Supplementary materials:**
- 2. Photo for publicity purpose:**

## **Photograph License & Publicity Release**

By submitting and signing this application, the applicant hereby agrees to the following terms and conditions regarding any photographs submitted to MATA as supporting materials for such application. License – By submitting any photographs to MATA with this application, applicant hereby grants to MATA a fully paid, perpetual, irrevocable, royalty free, world-wide non-exclusive license to display, dis-tribute, sublicense, reproduce, modify, adapt, and publish such photographs on MATA’s website and in any other materials used to promote MATA. Consent & Authorization – Applicant hereby irrevocably consents and authorizes MATA, and its successors and assigns, to use any photographs submitted with this application for the purpose of promoting MATA. Applicant further hereby releases MATA, and its officers, directors, agents, members, employees, successors, and assigns, from all claims for damages for libel, infringement of the right of publicity, invasion of privacy, portrayal in a false light, or any other claim based on the use of any photographs submitted with this application. Representations & Warranties – Applicant hereby represents and warrants that he/she has the power and authority to grant the rights licensed to MATA in this application and that the use, copying, distributing, displaying, reproducing, modifying, adapting, and sublicensing of any photographs submitted with this application does not result in the infringement of any copyright, trademark, patent, or other intellectual property right of another. Applicant further represents and warrants that he/she has obtained the consent and authorization for the use of any photographs submitted with this application from all persons shown in such photographs or from the guardian of any persons under the age of eighteen (18) shown in such photographs. Indemnification – Applicant hereby indemnifies and holds harmless MATA, and its officers, directors, agents, members, employees, successors and assigns from any loss, liability, claim or demand, including reasonable attorney’s fees, made by any third party due to or in any way relating to the use of any photographs submitted with this application or any breach of any of the representations and warranties contained in this application. By signing this I agree to the Photograph License & Publicity Release above.

If this teacher is selected as the \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:

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Applicant’s Signature

Date

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School Signature  
(including signature and title)

Date