



## Future Watermelon Farm Leaders program



The United States has a rich agricultural history, with watermelon growers serving as a shining example of the American Farmer tradition. Family farms once employed nearly half of the country's work force, but that has changed to about 2% of today's workers, with an average farmer's age exceeding 58. It is vital that we encourage younger generations to continue to farm and ship, especially on multi-generational farms.

There are many benefits to experienced leadership in every business, especially in our storied National Watermelon Association. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to build a sustainable future for the Association by creating a pathway that will encourage a consistent influx of new leaders with fresh perspectives.

The Future Watermelon Farm Leaders (FWFL) program recognizes the next generation of growers and packers who will lead the industry (and this Association) into the future. They do (and will) represent the generation that will meet the demands of a growing global population, sustain family farms and provide the nutritious food to the world.

### BENEFITS

The class of inductees will be eligible for the following:

- ✓ Invitation to the next National Watermelon Association convention.
  - Complimentary registration at the convention
  - Stipend of \$1,000 to help cover hotel and travel costs to convention.
- ✓ Induction into the next Class of Future Watermelon Farm Leaders.
- ✓ Opportunity at convention to be a presenter, greeter or other volunteer efforts.
- ✓ Invitation to be a guest at both of the following year's leadership meetings.
  - Learn first-hand the issues of the day in Washington, in the industry and what the Association is addressing on our members' behalf.

## LEADERSHIP

As a recognized Future Watermelon Farm Leader, you will:

- ✓ Build relationships with other watermelon association and industry leaders.
- ✓ Develop interpersonal relationship and communication skills.
- ✓ Be prepared to take leadership roles in the Association, Industry and your community.
- ✓ Gain an understanding of current political, scientific and economic issues facing the watermelon industry, as well as how we can collectively create positive change.
- ✓ Learn how the supply chain can work together to provide a safe, sustainable and profitable crop.

## APPLICATIONS PROCESS

The application process is open to National Watermelon Association members, their family members and/or their employees.

- ✓ Age of candidates: 39 years of age (or under) by FEB 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming convention.
- ✓ Any farmer or packer who receives at least half of his/her income from farming, packing or a direct farm-related business.
- ✓ Related member of a current NWA member's family or their company.
- ✓ The completed entry must be received at the NWA offices by December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ A class of two to three will be selected each year for induction.

## LET'S GET STARTED

The future of watermelon farming, and of the National Watermelon Association, will be in the hands of young farmers and packers soon. We encourage future leaders to apply for this program. While you experience opportunities that this program will offer, you will begin to build the future of the Association while continuing the respected trade of watermelon farming.

# Future Watermelon Farm Leader Program Application

## 1. Personal and Contact Information

Name:	Title:
Company:	Address 1:
City, State and ZIP:	Date of Birth:
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
Email:	Marital Status:

## 2. Education

List higher education, including short courses or continuing education.

School:	School:
Graduation Date:	Graduation Date:
Degree:	Degree:

3. Commodities Grown \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Employment History

Company:
Dates:
Job Responsibilities:

Company:
Dates:
Job Responsibilities:

Company:
Dates:
Job Responsibilities:



**9. Acknowledgement of Requirements:**

By signing this form, I \_\_\_\_\_:

- understand that I must live in the USA and be a current NWA member, or I am related to or employed by a current member
- understand that attendance and participation at the National Watermelon Association Convention is required
- understand that if accepted into the program I must maintain my status as a member of the National Watermelon Association through the tenure of the induction year.
- understand and acknowledge that throughout the Future Watermelon Farm Leaders Program photographs and video may be taken during sessions and other program-related activities and may be subsequently published with articles and/or other promotional materials. I hereby give NWA the unrestricted right and permission to copyright and/or publish such images in which I may be included in whole or part. I also waive the right to inspect and/or approve the finished product or copy that may be used in conjunction with the images.

**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print full name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer's Authorization:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (applicant) has my permission and support to be involved in the FWFL Program, including participation in any sessions which will involve travel to the planned events and experiences offered to the inductees.

**Employer's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer's Business Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print full name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applications must be received by December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Send completed application to: [bobm@nwawatermelon.com](mailto:bobm@nwawatermelon.com).

Contact the NWA office at (863) 619-7575 with any questions.