

The Nebraska State Fair and Nebraska Farm Bureau are continuing their State Fair Ag Family of the Day recognition program as the State Fair moves to Grand Island, said Cheryl Stubbendieck of Nebraska Farm Bureau, and they're asking Nebraskans' help in identifying outstanding families.

The nomination deadline is June 7.

"We're excited to use the new venues and technology at the State Fair in Grand Island to showcase our ag family honorees," she said. "This will enable more fair-goers to learn about these outstanding families, how they farm or ranch, and the work they do to give good care to their animals and protect our natural resources."

The Ag Family of the Day program was begun in 2007 and earned an award for Best New Agriculture program that year from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions. It honors one farm or ranch family each weekend day and on Labor Day.

Any Nebraskan can nominate a family to be honored.

"The Ag Family of the Day program has become a major highlight of the Nebraska State Fair," State Fair Board Chair Sallie Atkins said. "Progressive ag families are honored and treated to a fun-filled day at the fair. It has been a pleasure to see these families recognized for all their efforts—serving as role models and making Nebraska a leader in agriculture."

Nebraska Farm Bureau President Keith Olsen said the program is also "a great way to show the diversity of farming and ranching in our state—we've honored young farm families, multi-generation families, producers with various enterprises and couples of retirement age."

Families selected for the honor will be recognized through a media presentation and awards ceremony in the large arena between the cattle and sheep barns; be honored at a luncheon or reception; be featured in the fair's daily parade; receive free admission to the fair and passes for

the midway; a night's lodging in Grand Island, \$100 cash, a plaque and other recognition.

Families will be chosen based on their contributions to their community, Nebraska and agriculture. Farming or ranching must be their primary occupation.

Farm Bureau membership is not a criterion for selection. The judging panel will include representatives from the State Fair Board, State Fair staff, the Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation and Farm Bureau.

Judges will attempt to select winners who are geographically distributed, and whose enterprises represent the diversity of agriculture across the state.

Honored families will be recognized on these dates: Saturday, Aug. 28; Sunday, Aug. 29; Saturday, Sept. 4; Sunday, Sept. 5; and Monday, Sept. 6, Labor Day.

Any Nebraskan can nominate a farm or ranch family for the honor, by submitting an online nomination at the program's website, www.nebraskaagfamily.org or by printing a mailable form from the site. Forms also are available from the Farm Bureau Public Relations Department at 402/421-4405. Nominations are due June 7.

The individuals who nominated the families that are selected for the honor will receive free admission to the fair and be invited to attend the family's recognition luncheon or reception.