



Kentucky Master Farm Homemakers Guild

New Member Selection

The Kentucky Master Farm Homemaker program is sponsored jointly by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association, Inc. The Kentucky Guild follows the format and guidelines of the national organization, and is composed of a select group of outstanding farm women from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Recognition and membership are by invitation only.

Selection Process

For the purpose of selecting nominees, the state is divided into two sections, *East* (Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4) and *West* (Districts 4, 5, 6).

Up to two nominees from each district can be nominated, but no more than one per county. A maximum of five (5) qualified candidates from the respective section will be selected, recognized and honored each year as state Master Farm Homemakers from the respective groupings. Selection is made in the fall (East—2009, 2011, etc; West—2010, 2012), and recognition is conducted in the spring of the following year in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association. Nominations and selections are rotated between the two sections.

Criteria for Nomination & Membership

- # is a member, in good standing, of the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association for at least five (5) years.
- # Resides in a designated county in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at the time she is nominated and recognized.
- # Demonstrates knowledge of and support for the Cooperative Extension Service.
- # Shall be a farm woman who lives on a working farm and is included in the labor and/or management of the farm for at least a five (5) year period. A percentage of the family income should be derived from the farm operation.
- # Gives unselfish service to her family, community, state and nation.
- # Promotes the highest possible standard of living in the home and focuses attention on the positive aspects of farm home life.

Selection Process in Detail

During the designated year, individuals who meet the above qualifications and are interested in becoming a member of the organization must submit the completed ***County Information Sheet*** to her County Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences and/or the MFHG State Advisor. If the application form is turned in to the county agent, the agent will send the form to the MFHG State Advisor.

If more than two nominations are received for any single district, the MFHG State Advisor will work with Guild members in the district to arrange for a home visit with a small group of Guild and Kentucky Extension Homemaker (KEHA) members from nearby counties. This District screening committee will recommend *up to two (2) nominees* and will forward those names to the MFHG State Advisor.

The MFHG State Advisor will send a letter of congratulations along with the state application form. The nominee is asked to complete the materials (type or computer generate), arrange them in a notebook along with some photographs of the individual showing her involvement in the farm environment. These materials will be returned to the nominee following the state judging process.

During late February or early March, a copy of each candidate's materials will be circulated to the members of the state judging team for review. Working in cooperation with the nominee, a suitable date will be arranged when the state judging team can come and visit with the nominee in the home. Judging is usually scheduled during March.

The judging team likes to visit in the home with the nominee to see and talk with the individual about their activities and accomplishments. If at all possible, the home visit is arranged at a time when the County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences (or other county Extension agent) can accompany the judging team. Nominees are strongly encouraged to arrange to have their immediate (adult) family members present during part of the home visit to give the judging team an opportunity to meet them. Visits usually last a couple of hours. A casual tour of the farm home is strongly suggested. The score card for judging and the home visit is as detailed on the following page.

Selection Time Table

October & early November	County nominations, screenings and home visits as necessary
November 15	<i>County Information Sheets</i> due to MFHG State Advisor
Early December	District home visits and selection (if needed)
December 15	Final district nominee names due to MFHG State Advisor
Mid-December	State application papers sent to district nominees
February 1	Notebooks due to MFHG State Advisor
Mid-February	Notebooks are circulated to and among the State Judging Team
March	Home visits with district nominees
Late April/early May	State MFHG meeting and recognition of new members

JUDGING SCORE CARD

The Farm Home Plant (20 points)

The House	10 pts.
Managing/Balancing Farm/Home activities	10 pts.

Management in the Home (40 points)

Home Furnishings	10 pts
Health and Safety	10 pts
Food and Nutrition	10 pts
Clothing & Household Textiles	10 pts

Family Relations (30 points)

Sharing of Responsibilities & Planning	10 pts
Working Relationship among Members	10 pts
Family-time Together	10 pts

Civic Responsibilities & Community Activities (10 points)

Civic Responsibilities	5 pts
Community Activities & Leadership	5 pts

The decision of the judges is final.

State Winner Recognition

The state Master Farm Homemakers Guild winners are recognized and honored at the spring meeting which is held in conjunction with the annual KEHA meeting. New members are invited to the business meeting which is usually followed by a banquet for new members, family and friends. New members and their spouses are the honored guests of the Guild. Other family members are welcomed and encouraged to attend at the family's or county's expense. The new members and their families are introduced to and recognized at one of the KEHA's general sessions.

Meetings and Activities

The Kentucky Master Farm Homemaker Guild meets twice a year for a business meeting, social activities and to conduct the functions of the Guild. The spring business meeting is held prior to the banquet and in conjunction with the KEHA annual meeting. The banquet, honoring the new Guild members, is an opportunity for members and their spouses (or other family members and close friends) to come together and visit.

The Kentucky Guild meets for a more informal business and social meeting during the summer (generally July). Members are encouraged to bring their spouse or a friend and participate in the day-long activity which is generally hosted by a Guild member in or near their home. Each Guild member is urged to extend an invitation to host the summer meeting sometime during their membership tenure.

The Kentucky organization functions with approximately 60 + dues paying members. Attendance at meetings traditionally ranges from twenty-five to forty persons. An active member is defined as a *dues paying member*. If yearly dues are not paid for two consecutive years, the person is placed on an inactive member list. They no longer receive mailings or information from the state Guild. Membership dues are fifteen dollars (\$15) and due to the MFHG Treasurer *on or before June 1 each year*. New members receive free membership their first year.

As one of the five organized Master Farm Homemakers Guild groups following the guidelines of the national organization, Kentucky functions under the organized leadership of a local President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The state organization cooperates with and supports a number of national and international activities including "Pennies for Friendship," Nutrition Fund, and Water for All projects.

The Kentucky Master Farm Homemakers Guild supports and sponsors a scholarship which can be awarded yearly to an active Kentucky Guild member or their descendent.

.....