

John E. Hutchison Extension Award for Young Professionals American Society for Horticultural Science Southern Region

Background: The award was first offered in 1980 and was sponsored by John E. Hutchison. The award is presented to a young Extension Horticulturist in recognition of their outstanding and valuable contributions to horticulture.

1. **Administrator of the Award Funds:** Project Supervisor in Extension Horticulture, Texas Agricultural Extension Service or his appointee.
2. **Selection** – Committee appointed by President of Southern Region, American Society for Horticultural Science.

3. Requirements for Nomination:

- A. Member of Southern Region, American Society for Horticultural Science for a minimum of two years.
- B. Thirty –five years of age or younger on December 31 or the year of nomination (revision approved 1985) or 5 or less years in continuous extension (approved 1999).
- C. Employed as a Cooperative Extension employee on more than 50 percent Extension appointment with major horticultural responsibility at city, county area, state, or special project level.

4. Basis for Nomination:

Recognition for single educational thrust, procedure or program in horticulture, or Recognition for a complete program effort in horticulture.

5. Suggested guidelines for making nominations for your Extension professional.

- A. The candidate has made an outstanding contribution to horticulture early in his or her Extension career through a single educational program thrust or as a complete educational program.
- B. Committed to and exhibits enthusiasm for Extension objectives and the Extension philosophy of helping people help themselves. Exhibits desire to develop professional's career in Extension educational work.
- C. Displays outstanding subject matter knowledge and competency and exhibits strong professional qualities that are a credit to his organization and to the public.

- D. Educational programs illustrate creative and innovative ability and the impact of these programs result in increased efficiency, greater returns or a higher standard of life.
- E. Recognition by public and colleagues as outstanding Extension professionals in horticulture.
- F. Exhibits outstanding ability to communicate with the public and secure adoption of educational program through mass media, training programs, result demonstrations, conferences, and personal contacts. Cooperates with Extension co-workers, with other colleagues in research and teaching and with personnel of other agencies and organizations in increasing effectiveness of program.
- G. Reflects ability to use total available resources of the Land Grant University System, USDA, and other research and educational institutions to insure high level of efficiency of Extension horticultural educational programs.

6. Application includes:

- A. Resume (one to two pages) of candidate showing major educational training and employment experiences. Include Social Security number.
- B. Narrative of no more than three single spaced typewritten pages describing the single educational program thrust or the complete educational program in horticulture.
- C. Three to four letters of support from colleagues of clientele.
- D. Exhibits of educational program material such as newsletter, publications, visuals, etc. that would support the nomination may be included. No more than five examples can be attached.

Award Presentation

The Hutchison Young Extension Professional Award, consisting of \$200 and a plaque, will be presented annually at the Southern Regional ASHS Conference. Presentation will be made by the Chairman of the Selection Committee or his designate.

About the Award Namesake:

John E. Hutchison was an Extension Horticulturist at Texas A&M University. He began his career as a State Horticulturist in 1949. Being a natural leader with exceptional people skills, he advanced to State Agricultural Program leader in 1954 and soon thereafter advanced to the Director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in 1957. As Director of TAEX, he set the standard for excellence in agricultural administration for all Land Grant Programs in the United States. John E. Hutchison built one of the finest Extension Horticulture staffs ever assembled in the nation and motivated them to levels

of excellence which were beneficial to Texas, the Southern Region of ASHS and most importantly, the individuals themselves. The list of Extension Horticulturist trained by John E. Hutchison is long. As an administrator, John E. Hutchison knew no equal. He believed successful Extension specialists should demonstrate technical competence, professionalism, team work, high moral character and concern for grower needs. His influence lives today as the namesake of the John E. Hutchison Extension Award for Young Professionals.