



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WCO accepting nominations for Crew of the Year; Applications due December 1

DEFOREST, Wis. — Teamwork is critical during the harvest season. For custom farmers, pulling together, putting in the hours, supporting your crew and going the distance to complete the task at hand is what harvest is all about. It's tough to find good employees, and at the same time, there are men and women employed by custom farmers who make significant contributions to their crew.

New this year, the Wisconsin Custom Operators, Inc. (WCO) will honor an entire crew from a custom farming operation who demonstrate excellence in the areas of safety, efficiency, customer service, environmental stewardship, profitability and community engagement. This award is particularly focused on acknowledging and recognizing crew contributions that go above and beyond.

The decision to honor a "crew" versus an individual "employee" is based on the large emphasis custom farmers place on crews or teams in their work culture.

The crew – made up of both full-time and part-time employees – of a WCO member – are eligible to participate in the annual award selection process. The winning crew will receive \$1,000 divided evenly among all members, as well as other prizes and apparel.

"We all know how hard it can be to maintain a custom farming business. We also know the value of having good employees," said Ray Liska, WCO vice president. "We revamped the award to reflect the importance of a steadfast crew to any custom farming operation."

Applications for the WCO Crew of the Year Award will be accepted through Dec. 1. New this year, an entire crew, from a WCO member-business will be honored. The person making the nomination does not have to be a member of WCO. That means that farmers, clients of operators and fellow operators can all make nominations.

Visit https://wiscustomoperators.org/about/outstanding_crew_of_the_year.php for more information including eligibility, criteria and application.



This past February, WCO honored Norm Kowitz, an employee of Sullivan Custom Farming as Employee of the Year.

About the Wisconsin Custom Operators, Inc.: WCO is an organization comprised of individuals throughout the state who derive their income in whole or part from providing custom farming services. To learn more about the Wisconsin Custom Operators, Inc. including membership and events, go to wiscustomoperators.org or email info@wiscustomoperators.org.

Tweet about this: For #customfarmers, it's all about the culture of the "crew". [@WICustomOps](https://twitter.com/WICustomOps) accepting apps for Outstanding Crew of the Year – due Dec. 1. Apply at wiscustomoperators.org

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Editor's Note: [Photo] Click on the links for full resolutions images. .eps logos and alternative photo delivery available by request

[WCO's 2019 Employee of the Year award](#) was given to Norm Kowitz, an employee of Sullivan Custom Farming in Sparta on Feb. 20 during the organization's annual meeting at the Forage Symposium at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. L to R: Bryce O'Leary, WCO president, Norm Kowitz and Brian Sullivan of Sullivan Custom Farming.

[Link to this release on the WCO website](#)

[Jpeg WCO logo](#)