

SEARCH FOR OUSTANDING SMALL ANIMAL RAISER

I. RATIONALE

Livestock production, which plays an important role in the growth of Philippine economy, is of primary importance in the attainment of national food security. The farmers who integrate livestock farming with grains and high value crops prove that farming is a sustainable enterprise.

In order to promote and showcase agriculture as a competitive economic activity, the Department of Agriculture has launched the search for Outstanding Small Animal Raiser Adopting Integrated Farming System. This is vital proof that livestock in combination with crops is a profitable venture which benefits not only the farmer but the Filipino people as well by increasing the supply of food to

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To provide incentive to small animal raiser which integrate small animal production with other agriculture activities.
2. To give due recognition to small animal raiser for engaging in integrated farming system leading to the economic upliftment and contributing to the welfare of the community.
3. To encourage small animal raiser to engage in integrated farming system for adequate nutrition.
4. To show that small animal production is important in the attainment of food security.

III. SCOPE

The search provides award to a farmer adopting integrated farming system whose main activity and income is derived from livestock farming.

IV. SEARCH RULES AND REGULATIONS

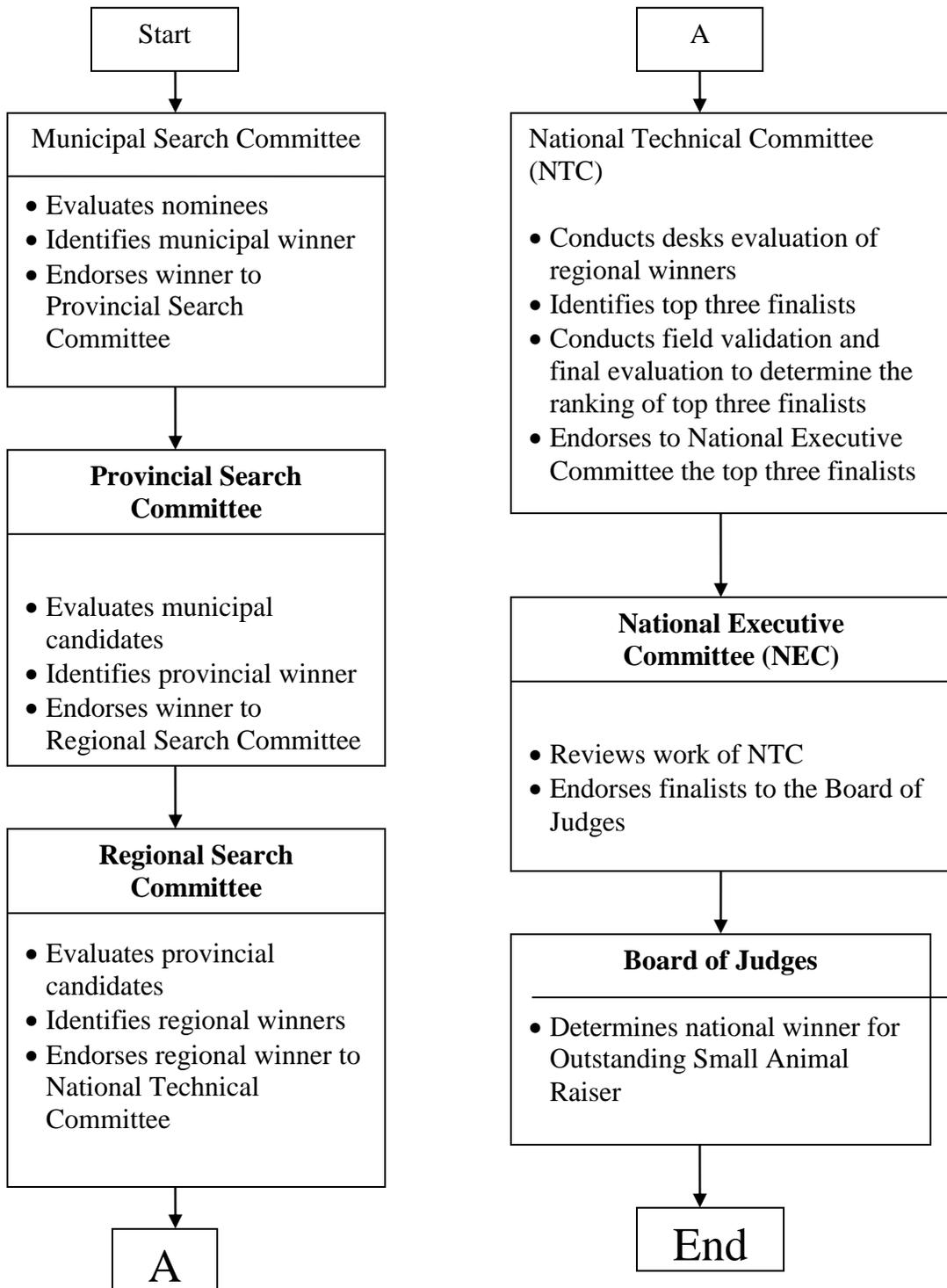
The following shall be the rules and regulation governing the search:

1. Nomination shall be made on the prescribed form by any individual who is a non-Department of Agriculture employee, a civic organization or a farmers association;
2. Only qualified nominees as a defined in section III- Scope and Section VI – Qualifications of Nominee and with complete scrap book and records of operations will be considered for evaluation;
3. A national winner shall not be eligible for nomination in the same category in the DA Annual Search within five (5) years after winning the award;
4. The immediate two (2) years preceding the start of the search is the performance period covered for evaluation;
5. Only one regional winner per region shall be considered for national evaluation;
6. The deadline set by the Search National Executive Committee (NEC) for each level is final and should be strictly followed;
7. There shall only one national winner for the small animal raiser category who will received the award;
8. No winner may be recommended by the NEC to the Board of Judges and/or no winner may be declared by the Board of Judges if there is no meritorious nominee;

9. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be final
10. The national winner's scrapbook, videotape and other documents submitted for evaluation shall become the property of the Department of Agriculture

V. SEARCH AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The nominee/candidate will be subjected to a series of evaluation of different levels. The following is the flow chart of evaluation:



VI. QUALIFICATIONS OF NOMINEE

Nominees for the outstanding small animal raiser adopting integrated farming system must possess all of the following qualifications:

- a. A Filipino citizen of good moral character as certified by the Barangay Chairman;
- b. At least 21 years old;
- c. A farmer by principal occupation, practicing integrated farming system in a contiguous area of not less than 0.5 hectare but not more than five (5) hectares, including non-ownership of land, with animal inventory, not less than ten (10) animal unit but not more than *fifty (50)* animal unit at any given time.

If ever there are large animals, it must not be more than 50% of the small animal unit. (See Table 1 for calculation of total animal units);
- d. Must not be an employee/official of the Department of Agriculture;
- e. Must have a complete records or documentation of his farm operations expenses and income for the two (2) years immediately preceding the evaluation period; and
- f. Have a good credit standing, if a loan borrower; and
- g. Must be a member of any farmer association/organization.

Table I.
Animal Unit of Common Animal Species

Species	Animal Unit (a.u.)
Small ruminants	
Adult (goat/sheep)	0.20
Kids/lambs	0.10
Swine	
Breeders	0.50
Fatteners	0.30
Weanlings	0.15
Sucklings	0.10
Poultry	
Chicken, ducks, geese, turkey	0.01
Guinea fowl, Quail	

Note: To calculate the farm animal units, identify the animal species in the farm, their number and ages. Multiply the numbers of animals of each species by their corresponding animal units. The sum of all their products is the total animal units. Example:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 2 \text{ calves} & \dots\dots & 2 \times 0.25 = 0.50 \\
 1 \text{ sow} & \dots\dots & 1 \times 0.50 = 0.50 \\
 2 \text{ chicken} & \dots\dots & 2 \times 0.01 = 0.02 \\
 & & \hline
 \text{Total animal units} & & = 1.02
 \end{array}$$

VII. THE EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The farmer's management on the farm (or his environment) and resources using the knowledge and skills constitute the total farming system. This farming system has a direct farming linkage to the community, which also influence the farming system. The other sources of income represent the residual activity of the farmer (figure 1)

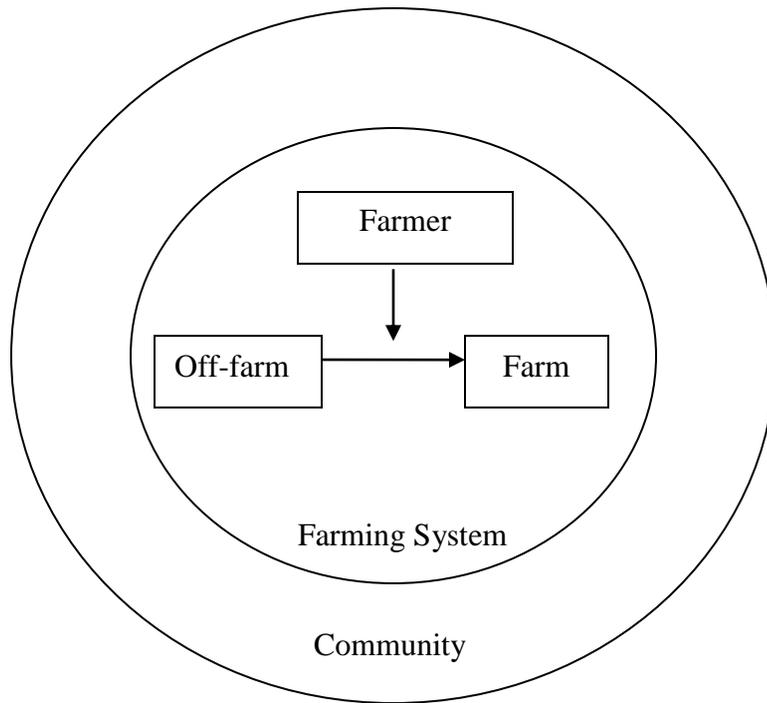


Figure 1

Considering the total farming system, five areas by which farmer could be evaluated are identified.

VIII. THE EVALUATION OF THE CRITERIA

The following are the criteria under each area of evaluation:

A. The Farmer

1. **The Management Skills.** This is the ability of the farmer to allocate his resources (land, labor, capital) to the different enterprises in his/her farm to optimize efficiency and effectiveness of farm resources, increase resource complementation and subsequently increase farm farm productivity. Importantly, it is the ability of the farmer to overcome resource constraints and how he/she manages farm opportunities/potentials to transform these into socio-economic benefits for the farm family.
2. **Technical Knowledge.** This is the level of farmer's knowledge of new technologies that will increase his production and income and how he/she overcome technical constraints and manages technical opportunities/potentials for the improvement of the farming system.
3. **Innovativeness.** This refers to the farmer's decision-making abilities in making improvements, innovation, and on the technical, social, and economic aspect of the farm.

4. Record Keeping.-----

B. The Farm

1. **Farm Resources Management.** This is the measure of how available farm resources are utilized to optimize efficiency and effectiveness.

a). **Land resources utilization.** An important measure of land utilization is cropping intensity. This is a measure of land utilization to cropping. This is computed as production during the year, the higher the index, the more intensified is the farm.

b). **Farm labor optimization.** Good labor management must be able to overcome labor constraints and must be able to exploit labor opportunities/potentials into productive benefits.

c). **Capital allocation.** This refers to how farmer manages his cash capital and how he/she overcomes capital constraints.

d). **Use of indigenous or local resources.** This provides information on whether resources from the farm and community being utilized such that the use of external inputs is minimized.

2. **Farm condition.** This is an assessment of the general condition of the farm as affected by the farmer's farming practices.

a) **Land Use Allocation.** This is an assessment of how effective the pest control practices of the farmer. The abundance of these may indicate a poor pest control measure. However, the absence of them may not necessarily mean a healthy pest control practice since too much pesticide may have been used which is hazardous to health.

b) **Animal health condition.** The assessment of the health condition of the animals of the farm will provide information on the capacity of the farmer to prevent (e.g., vaccination, biosecurity) and control animal diseases.

c) **Health and environmental safety welfare.** This is an assessment on the soundness of the farming system in relation to human and animal health. For example, application of too much pesticide may endanger the lives of the farmers and the animals.

d) **Waste management and utilization:** This refers to the effort of the farmer to keep his farm free from pollution, waste build up and proper utilization (e.g. manure organic fertilizer, biogas production etc.)

C. The Farming System

1. **Degree of integration.** This is a measure of the extent of integration in the farm, i.e. the number of enterprises integrated and the scale of integration.

2. **Use of technology.** This is an assessment of the suitability or effectiveness of the technology used in the farm. This may be gleaned from crop/animal condition and performance.
3. **Sustainability.** This is an assessment of the ability of the farming system to produce high production through generations. With limited data, this is rather difficult to measure but from informal interviews, the evaluators must be able to extract information about this based on the past experience of the farmer. This includes the following:
 - a) **Ecological conservation.** This refers to farming practises/measure that will help in maintaining the ecological balance, (e.g. soil and water conservation)
 - b) **Production stability.** This is the ability of the faming system to maintain high production level through the years.
 - c) **Income stability.** This is the ability of the farming system to be the same of other farms within the economy
4. **Efficiency.** This is a measure of the output against the input used in the farm. This includes the following:
 - a) **Productivity.** This is a measure of production per unit area.
 - b) **Profitability.** This is a measure of return per monetary unit

Because this is just a residual activity of the farmer, the only measure under this is the utilization of the extra resources of the farm

D. The Contribution to the Community

1. Farmer's involvement with the community
 - a). Membership to farmer's organization. This is one way of determining farmer's involvement in the community

E. Other Sources of Income

IX. FARM RECORD KEEPING AND ANALYSIS

1. Farm Record Keeping

Farm record is important for the preparation of the farm report. Farm record keeping should be done at least one crop year but preferably two years, immediately preceding the nomination. The prescribes forms should be used in keeping farm record. The AT assigned in the locality should guide the prospective nominee in accomplishing the farm record.

The farm record should consist of the following:

- a. Operation of the Farm. Use separate form for each enterprise in the farm. Entries should be made for every field operation.
 - 1) *Date of operation.* Enter month and day when the operation/activity was done. It is possible to have two or more operations in one day.
 - 2) *Material type* includes the name of material used and its formulation

- 3) *Quantity*. This is the amount of the materials used or applied.
 - 4) *Labor hours*. This is the number of hours spent for each operation in the farm.
 - 5) *Power source and Hours used*. Power source may be that of a draft animal or a mechanical source. In any operation using either animal or mechanical means, record properly the number of hours used.
 - 6) *Cost per man-day, man-animal-day or man-machine-day*. Record the prevailing rate per day.
- b. **Production record**. The production record should be in the actual production of the different enterprises in the farm, this should be recorded after every harvest (for crops) or at every animal disposal or at the end of the crop year (for livestock).

1. Preparation of the Farm Report

The farm report must contain the following:

a. *Management practices in the farm*. Based from the data on the operations in the farm, define the actual management practices used in the farm by summarizing them into the major activities (e.g. land preparation, planting, feeding practices, health management, etc).

b. *Cost and return analysis*. Calculate the cost and return by enterprise and for the whole farm. The following is the procedure I analyzing the cost and return

b.1. Labor and Power costs. The amount of labor and power spent in each operation for each enterprise should be expressed in man-days (MD), man-animal-days (MAD) or man-machine-days (MMD). Calculate total labor/ power cost for each enterprise and then for the whole farm. This is calculated as:

$\text{Total Labor and Power Cost} = \text{Total labor: MD} \times \text{Wage rate} + \text{Total power: (MD/MAD/MMD} \times \text{rate}$

b.2 Material input cost. The total cost of all materials used in the farm (e.g., seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.). This is calculated as :

$\text{Total material cost} = (\text{Quantity material 1} \times \text{Price of material 1}) + \dots + (\text{Quantity of material N} \times \text{Price of material N})$

b.3. Determine the Gross Return

The type of products, amount of production and price of the product are important components in calculating for return.

Calculate the gross return using the formula:

b.4. Determine the Net Return

This is computed as:

$$\text{Net Return} = \text{Gross return} - \text{Total labor} + \text{Material costs}$$

$$\text{Gross Return} = (\text{Volume of product 1} \times \text{price of product 1}) + \dots + (\text{Volume of product N} \times \text{Price of product N})$$

Calculate the net return for each enterprises and for the whole arm.

b.5. Calculate the Return over Investment (ROI)

This is a measure of the return for every monetary unit invested in his farm. The higher ROI, the better is the economic performance of the enterprise. This is calculated as:

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{\text{Net Income}}{\text{Total Cost}}$$

IX. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Scrapbook. The nominee's scrapbook shall be prepared by the nominee himself, to be guided by the Agricultural Technologists (AT) of the locality, who will verify and check for the correctness and completeness of the book.

The book must have the following content and format:

- a. Table of contents
- b. Nomination form duly filled up by the nominating officer, who must not be an employee/official of the Department of Agriculture. (see Appendix A).
- c. Brief story about the nominee (with two (2) latest ID pictures)
- d. *Farm location map.* Sketch the location of the farm indicating roads and important landmarks.
- e. *Farm lay-out.* Sketch the land allocation to the different enterprise in the farm with their respective area. Label each division properly with the enterprise.
- f. *Production pattern diagram.* Graph all the production patterns used in the farm against of the year with breeding and calving time properly indicated, for example and procedure and graphing the cropping the patterns.
- g. Farm report containing the following:
 - 1) Management practices used in the farm, by enterprise

- 2) Production record. A detailed animal performance
 - 3) Cost and return analysis, by enterprise and total farm
- h. *Farm photographs.* The farm photographs should show the actual stand of each enterprise of the farm during the record keeping period. Different activities for each enterprise (e.g., planting, spraying, etc.) may also be included. Activities that need special attention should be taken in focus.
- i. *Other supporting documents* which include the following:
- 1) Certification from the Barangay Captain that the nominee is a resident of the locality, a Filipino citizen, a non-DA employee of good moral character.
 - 2) Certification from the AT that the nominee is a bonafide farmer actually farming a specified contiguous area.
 - 3) Certification from a financing institution that the farmer has good credit standing (optional).
 - 4) Photocopies of all documents and materials indicating meritorious contributions, accomplishments, in the field of endeavor (e.g. certificate of membership to farmer organization, community involvement to certain projects, etc.)
 - 5) Income Tax Return (ITR) for the preceding two (2) years certified by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)
 - 6) Five minute video *presentation* (maximum) of farmer's farm, animals, activities and other related information.

The scrapbook should be submitted to the Municipal Search Committee (MAFC & MA) for evaluation. Additional supporting documents shall be added on successful winners after each level of evaluation.

The following are the suggested procedure and methods to be used under different level of evaluation (municipal, provincial, regional and national).

- a. **Barangay and Municipal Level.** Data collection under the barangay and municipal levels shall be more dynamic and detailed since the nominating officer can visit the nominee regularly. The following are the suggested procedure and methods of collecting information.
- 1) **Conducts of farmer interview.** Collect the prospective nominee information related to his/her personal data and basic information about his/her farming system. A questionnaire shall be provided for the nominee to answer, to be administered by AT.
 - 2) **Farm record keeping.** The prospective nominee with guidance from the AT shall gather information on the actual activities in his farm. These include the operation, material and labor inputs used and production. The procedure in farm record keeping is discussed in Chapter IX.
 - 3) **Conduct of continuous field observation/measurement.** Assess the prospective nominee's farm regularly. Examine the occurrence

of pests, diseases, weeds and general standing of the crops/animals. Observe also the dissemination of technology on the neighboring farms.

- 4) **Collection of existing data.** Some farmers may have kept a farm record before his nomination. These could be a good source of information about the farming system. Other existing data may also serve as proof to what the prospective nominee have claimed. Examples of these are certificates of training, seminars, membership to an organization, etc.

b. **Provincial, Regional and National Levels.** Data collection at the provincial, regional and national level is limited to one-shot data collection methods because of accessibility limitations. The following are the suggested procedure and methods of collecting information.

- 1) **Review and evaluation of the existing data (scrap book).** The candidate's scrapbook provides the most of the information needed in the evaluation. The evaluators must first determine whether each of the candidates is qualified by checking if the candidates meet the qualifications set for the search. Make preliminary evaluation using the candidate's scrapbook and rank them according to their respective scores. The evaluation criteria and analysis are discussed in Chapter VII.

- 2) **Conduct of farm visits. Farm visits.** Farm visits should be scheduled on strategic times, i.e., when crop/animals are standing. Video picture of the candidates farm, which may be taken by the regional office is important for the evaluation at the national level. At the provincial and regional levels, whenever convenient, all candidates may be visited by the evaluating team. At the national level, or when it is inconvenient to visit all candidates, it is necessary to make a short list of the candidates. Only the top four to five will be considered for further evaluation. These candidates shall be visited for evaluation. During the visits, collect the necessary information through:

a) *Informal interview.* The following are the interviewed by the team:

- *The candidates.* Interview with the candidate should be made to determine the accuracy of the farm report and the candidate's management skills including his/her attitude and behavior towards farming. Basic information about the farming system could be checked from the candidate's scrapbook which he/she made earlier. A checklist of questions maybe prepared for the interview that should be kept confidential to avoid pre-answered questions, coached by the AT or other DA personnel.
- *Neighboring farmers.* Talks with the neighboring farmers are necessary to determine the candidate's status and contribution to the community.
- *Key informants.* These include barangay leaders and other person who are familiar with the candidate, (e.g. barangay officials, organization leaders, etc.)

b) *Field observation/measurement.* This enables the evaluators to get first hand information about the farm and verify the correctness of the candidate's scrapbook. The valuator should be able to assess the general stand of the crops/animals in the farm by examining the occurrence of pests, diseases, nutrient deficiency, weeds of crops and diseases, parasites and deficiencies of animals.

1. The Evaluation Analysis

The "scoring method" shall be used in the analysis of the evaluation. For each level of evaluation, each evaluator shall rate each candidate using the set of criteria (see Appendix B-Evaluation Criteria). The weight for each criterion represents the maximum score for such criterion. Total score for each candidate is determined by adding all the scores of each criterion. The candidate with the highest score shall be declared the winner.

The results shall be summarized using Form 6 (Comparative Assessment Form).