

**WISCONSIN LAND+WATER CONSERVATION  
2024 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION EMPLOYEE AWARD  
NOMINATION INFORMATION**

1) Nominee information:

- **Name:** Mayme Keagy
- **Address:** 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Suite 2100
- **Contact:** (608) 930-9892, [mayme.keagy@iowacounty.org](mailto:mayme.keagy@iowacounty.org)
- **Award category:** Outstanding Employee- Administrative Assistant
- **County department:** Iowa County Land Conservation Department
- **Title:** Department Assistant
- **Years of service:** 5.8
- **Education and background, past and present career responsibilities, level of professional knowledge and ability:**  
Mayme has over 20 years of administrative support and communication experience, including training in graphic design, photography, and video. She is responsible for supporting all Land Conservation administrative duties (reception, mailings, account payable and receivable, data entry, supply orders, etc.) and programs, including FPP, CREP, cost-sharing, social media, publications, and events.
- **Name, address, and contact information of nominator:** Katie Abbott, 303 W. Chapel St. Suite 2100 Dodgeville, WI 53533, (608) 930-9893, [katherine.abbott@iowacounty.org](mailto:katherine.abbott@iowacounty.org) (with assistance from Landon Baumgartner-Dane Co, and Sarah Hovis-Brown Co)

2) Summarize your entry in five sentences or less:

Mayme came to Iowa County with a background administrative support as well as graphic design and communication. Mayme is essential to the successful completion of any project or event put on by the department. In times of change, Mayme has been a rock, remaining positive and jumping in to help wherever she could. She provides excellent customer service and helps build and maintain positive relationships with partners and landowners. To say she is a linchpin of our department would be an understatement.

3) Tell us in 500 words or less how the nominee meets the award criteria and guidelines.

Mayme joined the Iowa County Land Conservation Department in March of 2018, during a time of turnover for the entire department. Besides her many years of experience with administrative support, Mayme arrived with years of experience as a freelance graphic designer, photographer, Master Gardener, prairie restorer, chicken herder, beekeeper, syrup sugarer, and occasional lumberjack at her home in Ridgeway. These skills and knowledge have elevated the Department's customer service and outreach.

On top of all the day-to-day administrative support functions she handles that keep the department running smoothly, Mayme is instrumental in taking care of the little details that

make events and programs successful, including Farmer's Appreciation Day awards, rainfall simulator demonstrations, well water samples collection, youth conservation field days, and county volunteer events. She jumps in to help wherever she can, whether for a big mailing, getting ready for a field event, taking photos or video, being an extra pair of hands in the field, or helping DATCP with CREP easement visits. Often these are done without needing be asked, allowing other staff to focus more on technical and field work. She is able to think on her feet and problem solve, such as when the caterer for a farmer workshop didn't tell us they'd be closed that day; she quickly went to the grocery store to find enough food for the group, and arrived with a smile and was able to laugh about the mix up.

Mayme is the first to meet anyone and everyone at the door or on the phone as if they were a neighbor stopping by, whether because they really are her neighbors or because she just cares that much about her community. Her helpful and friendly attitude, broad knowledge base, and excellent customer service have helped our department build a positive reputation and relationships with farmers, partners, and other departments.

Mayme was an enormous help in keeping our programs on track during times of change, including Covid (when we also moved offices and purchased all new furniture) and significant staff vacancies in the last two years. Mayme took on additional tasks to make sure program deliverables were completed on time, such as handling the large Farmland Preservation self-certification mailings and tracking, sending soil test reminder letters, and becoming familiar with SnapPlus so she could answer basic NMP questions. All of this was done with a positive attitude and good humor.

With Mayme, I know tasks will be done well and efficiently. She has taken it upon herself to learn more about conservation every year, to provide the best possible service to our customers. It is clear she cares about her coworkers, clients, and conservation in general. Her support and skills have boosted our department's ability to grow our outreach and programming, and we are a stronger department because she is on our team.

- 4) See attached letters of support



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Tony Evers

**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Secretary Randy Romanski

December 27, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the nomination of Mayme Keagy for the 2024 Outstanding Conservation Employee Award for the Administrative Assistant category. As an employee with the Iowa County Land Conservation Dept. Mayme has made significant contributions to statewide efforts, particularly the Wisconsin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), that have advanced land and water conservation in the county and across Wisconsin.

At the county, Mayme excels at performing administrative tasks associated with the CREP program. This includes working directly with landowners to complete agreement applications and requests for cost share payments. Mayme understands how important people are to conservation and takes care to provide the best customer service possible to landowners. State staff can count on CREP submittals from Mayme to be complete, detailed and timely. In the event a revision is needed, Mayme responds positively and quickly follows through to resolve the issue. As a result, landowners in Iowa County are assured to complete CREP enrollment and receive incentive and cost share payments without delays.

Beyond the administrative tasks, Mayme has taken it upon herself to learn and understand the goals and guidelines of the CREP program. Mayme is a conservationist at heart and values the benefits that conservation strives toward. Her knowledge and appreciation for CREP comes out when promoting it to landowners and helps them gain an appreciation for not only the financial returns, but also the long term conservation benefits to the land and water.

While Mayme may not know it, over the past three years she has been instrumental with mentoring the State CREP interns. Iowa County is typically one of the first counties to work with the interns during the summer. Mayme willingly joins the interns on site, shares her knowledge of conservation and the land, guides with the monitoring process and uses her problem solving skills to resolve issues during the site visits. Her tutoring has created a consistency between the interns work which has rolled over into other county CREP easement monitoring efforts throughout the summers. Each intern has expressed how much they enjoy working with Mayme.

The commitment Mayme has for conservation comes out in her work. I am fortunate to have such a wonderful person in Iowa County working the help advance conservation in Wisconsin through the CREP program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian C. Loeffelholz".

Brian C. Loeffelholz  
Program Manager – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program  
WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

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December 29, 2023

Nominee:

Mayme Keagy  
Iowa County Land Conservation Department  
303 W Chapel St Ste 2100  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Nominator:

Jake Johnson  
Iowa County FSA  
1124 Professional Drive  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to nominate Mayme Keagy for the WI Land & Water Association outstanding employee award.

Being part of a county that has a high number of CREP contracts, it is very important that all parties working on CREP contracts are on the same page and always offer open communication. Mayme has proven to do just that and more! Mayme is always offering open communication between both the FSA and the NRCS office while carrying out the tasks that CREP contracts call for. Having Mayme as part of our county's CREP team, has allowed a seamless process that ensures the highest customer satisfaction while signing up the large number of CREP contracts within our county. Mayme has always been easy to work with and the feedback that I hear from CREP customers has always been positive.

Please consider Mayme Keagy for the WI Land & Water Association outstanding employee award

Sincerely,

Jake Johnson  
Iowa County FSA CRP Program Technician