



# Kentucky Master Farm Homemakers Guild

## New Member Selection

The Kentucky Master Farm Homemaker program is sponsored jointly by the University of Kentucky 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**

Selection of new members will be open across the state each year. *Up to two nominees from each district can be nominated*, but no more than one per county. A maximum of *five (5) qualified candidates* will be selected, recognized and honored each year as *Kentucky Master Farm Homemakers*. The selection process begins in the fall, and recognition is conducted in the spring of the following year in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association.

### **Criteria for Nomination & Membership**

- Be a member in good standing of the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association for at least three (3) years. (This includes mailbox members.)
- Be nominated from the club, county and/or area where membership is held.
- Be a farm woman who owns a working farm and is included in the labor and/or management of the farm. A percentage of the family income should be derived from the farm operation.
- Reside in a designated county in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at the time of nomination and recognition.
- Demonstrate knowledge of and support for the Cooperative Extension Service.
- Give unselfish service to her family, community, state and nation.
- Promote the highest possible standard of living in the home and focus attention on the positive aspects of farm home life.

## Selection Process in Detail

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 Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Agent. If multiple applications are submitted at the county level, the county should select one nominee to forward. The form for the county nominee should be sent to the Master Farm Homemakers Guild 2nd Vice President, Janet Hobbs, 21870 Joe Prather Hwy, Ekron, KY 40117

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

The MFHG 2nd Vice President will send a letter of congratulations along with additional details regarding 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 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 detailed on the following page.

## Selection Time Table

October & November	County nominations, screenings and home visits as necessary
November 15	<b>County Information Sheets</b> due to MFHG 2nd Vice President
Early December	Area home visits and selection (if needed)
December 15	Final area nominee names due to MFHG 2nd Vice President
Late December	Letters and additional information sent to area nominees
February 1	Additional nomination materials requested due to the MFHG 2nd Vice President
Mid-February	Nomination materials are circulated to 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 and Home (20 points)

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

### Management in the Home (40 points)

Home Improvements	8 pts
Home Furnishings	8 pts
Health and Safety	8 pts
Food & Nutrition	8 pts
Clothing & Household Textiles	8 pts

### Civic Responsibilities & Community Activities (10 points)

Civic Responsibilities	5 pts
Community Activities & Leadership	5 pts

### Family Relations (30 points)

Sharing of Responsibilities & Planning	10 pts
Working Relationship among Members	10 pts
Family-time Together	10 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 Guild luncheon and business. New members and their spouses are the honored guests of the Guild, and additional friends and family may attend at their own 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 Homemakers 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 in conjunction with the KEHA annual meeting. The luncheon, 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. Beginning in 2016, membership dues are twenty dollars (\$20) 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 four organized Master Farm Homemakers Guild groups following the guidelines of the national organization, Kentucky functions under the organized leadership of a local President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The state organization cooperates with and supports a number of national and international activities including the KEHA "Coins for Change" program and the Associated Country Women of the World's 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.

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