

Tennessee Association FFA

PLOW Recognition and Awards

Students and chapters participating in the PLOW (Passing Literacy OnWard) program are eligible for individual and chapter recognition for their achievements in improving their reading skills and literacy during the school year. Chapters are encouraged to develop individual student recognition programs to best fit their local chapter membership. All recognition programs should be designed to encourage and motivate the members to include all members in the chapter to participate and be recognized.

Chapters will be recognized for their participation at the state convention. In order for chapters to receive awards, they must organize and conduct the basic PLOW program at the local level. Chapter awards will be based on the number of chapter, school, and community activities conducted by local chapter members during the year, which are in addition to the basic literacy activities done within the chapter membership. Chapters that do not meet the requirements of the basic PLOW reading and literacy program are not eligible to receive any awards at the state level.

PLOW (Basic Program) Requirements

The basic PLOW program conducted at the local chapter level consists of the following requirements:

1. A PLOW committee shall be established at the chapter level. This committee will assist the chapter officers and advisor(s) in planning, promoting, and conducting the PLOW program.
2. Documentation of student involvement shall be recorded and maintained in the chapter files.
3. A member participant recognition program shall be established at the chapter level that meets the following categories of recognition:

BRONZE Award: 30 Hours of personal reading beyond the regular academic requirements.

SILVER Award: 45 Hours of personal reading beyond the regular academic requirements.

GOLD Award: 60 Hours of personal reading beyond the regular academic requirements.

PLATINUM Award: 75 Hours of personal reading beyond the regular academic requirements.

Note: The requirements listed above are for individual participation. Activities conducted by a group of members working together on a project or in a team effort are to be included as chapter participation rather than individual performance. Student certificates are available on the agricultural education/FFA download folder.

Chapters participating in the PLOW program at the local level may apply for state awards to be presented at the State FFA Convention. Chapter awards are based on teams or

groups of members organizing and conducting activities and projects at the chapter, school, and/or community levels. The awards are progressive depending upon the degree of participation and the number of activities conducted. Chapters interested in receiving state recognition must submit an application by the designated deadlines.

PLOW (Chapter Recognition) Requirements

State BRONZE: Winning chapters must meet the requirements of the basic PLOW program at the local chapter level plus a minimum of one (1) reading literacy activity within the chapter membership promoting membership involvement in the PLOW program.

Examples could include:

- Chapter book drives, book fairs, donation of reading materials to the chapter library.
- Establishment of a chapter library or resource center for reading skill improvement.
- Donation of articles from magazines, websites, etc. to the resource library.
- Setting up displays, bulletin boards, posters, and making presentations promoting reading literacy in the agriculture classroom or lab.
- Reading tutorials, assisting fellow members in development of reading skills.

State SILVER: Winning chapters must meet basic PLOW, State BRONZE, plus organizing and conducting a minimum of one (1) school-wide reading literacy activity.

Examples could include:

- School book drives, book fairs, and book donations to the local school library.
- Putting up literacy exhibits, displays, bulletin boards, etc. in the school.
- Making presentations and promoting reading literacy in school assemblies, classrooms, and school functions.
- Conducting or participating in school-wide reading campaigns.
- Participating in after-school or other organized reading tutorial programs at the school.

State GOLD: Winning chapters must meet basic PLOW, State SILVER, plus organizing and conducting a minimum of one (1) community reading literacy activity.

Examples could include:

- Traditional Power of Reading Program activities, reading to students in elementary or middle schools, sharing reading materials, and related interactive projects.
- Making donations of books to city, county, and/or community libraries.
- Actively participating in community reading literacy projects and activities.
- Organizing and conducting successful literacy campaigns in the community.
- Putting up reading literacy displays, educational exhibits, and other promotional materials in city hall, libraries, businesses, and other locations.
- Participating in reading tutorial programs such as after school day care centers, etc.

State PLATINUM: Winning chapters must meet basic PLOW, State GOLD, plus any four of the following requirements:

1. Include in the application the documentation and validation of a level of improvement of student reading skills attributable to the PLOW literacy program. This would include skill level results recorded at the beginning of the program and at its conclusion.
2. Documentation of additional projects beyond the requirements of the award categories. This could include participating in two or more projects at the chapter, school, and/or community level. List these projects.
3. Developing and participating in innovative reading literacy projects. Submit a description of the project.
4. Submitting copies of newspaper articles or other publicity gained by conducting the PLOW program in the school or community.
5. Submitting at least two letters of recognition from local school or community officials recognizing the success of the chapter's PLOW program in the school or community.
6. Sponsoring or assisting other school or community clubs or organizations in the development of a reading literacy program.

State PLOW awards will be judged by a team composed of the Tennessee Association FFA state officers and selected advisors in Tennessee. A representative from the sponsoring organization will be invited to participate in the final selection of the state winners in each category.

