

**American Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

Rules for 2015 AFBF Annual Convention Competition

Background

The Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Excellence in Agriculture Award competition is designed as an opportunity for young farmers and ranchers to earn recognition, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, and participation/involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community). **The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who does not have the majority of his/her income subject to normal production risk.** It is recommended that the state Farm Bureaus provide, as part of the state recognition and award, an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF Annual Convention held in 2015 in San Diego, California, Jan. 9-12. Appropriate recognition will be given to all national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Convention. The AFBF YF&R Committee and the AFBF Organization Department will coordinate the program at the national level.

Information about the Excellence in Agriculture applicant is requested on the entry form. ALL INFORMATION IS HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND IS DESTROYED AFTER JUDGING IS COMPLETED.

Eligibility

- An applicant can be either an individual or a couple that is married or has spousal-equivalent or similar legal rights under the law applicable to the state Farm Bureau organization. Applicant may choose to apply individually, rather than as a couple.
- Applicant(s) shall be a Farm Bureau member(s) between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with his/her county Farm Bureau. The individual or spouse/spousal-equivalent shall have reached his/her 18th birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31, 2015.
- Applicant(s) must not have derived a majority of his/her income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in any of the past three years.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one national YF&R Competition per year.
- Applicant(s) may compete in either the Achievement Award or the Excellence in Agriculture Award, but not both in the same year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse/spousal-equivalent are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award winners and/or previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureaus and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.
- Each state may submit one entry to be considered for national recognition and must use the AFBF entry form and application.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her state or county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's state beyond the entry form. Verbal and presentation reference to applicants' name, state and county will be allowed during your presentation for personalization of presentation.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-V. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VI. All questions should be written in 10-point Times New Roman font.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- Recreating the application on a computer is not allowed; this includes font and format changes, such as bolding.
- The application must be properly signed with no additional pages, including letters of recommendation, scrapbooks, photos or other visual additions.
- States have permission to reproduce the attached application form.

Note: Disregarding any of the guidelines listed above will result in disqualification.

Presentation Guidelines

- The presentation will be an interactive, 25-minute interview, in which the applicant(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of his/her entire application in narrative form with a panel of three judges and the audience.
 - The applicant(s) has a total of 25 minutes to present on the topics addressed in the application. At 20 minutes, a warning card will indicate that he/she should move on to the question and answer session. It is up to the applicant to make this transition. No additional time will be given for questions if the applicant(s) does not stop. A card will be shown at the end of 25 minutes and time will be called and conclude the applicant's time in front of the judges.
- The only visual means in which to deliver the information is through a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation. The applicant(s) needs to submit their presentation on a USB flash drive to the Excellence in Agriculture Competitor Orientation. A computer, LCD projector, screen and one slide advancer remote will be provided. All presentations must be formatted to work on a PC. Contestants will not be allowed to use their own computer.
- Verbal and presentation references to applicant(s) name, state and county will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props (including notes), sound or video will be allowed during the presentation.
- Applicants are not allowed to view other presentations until after they have completed their own.

Judging

- All applications will be judged prior to the AFBF Annual Convention. All applicants will present to a different set of judges at the Annual Convention.

<u>Application</u>		<u>Approx. %</u>
Questions II-IV	150 points	37.5%
Farm Bureau Experience	120 points	30%
Other Leadership Experience and Goals	100 points	25%
Application Form	<u>30 points</u>	<u>7.5%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 points	100% (66.7% of Total Score)

<u>Presentation</u>		
Delivery of Presentation	100 points	50%
Content of Presentation	60 points	30%
Responses to Questions	<u>40 points</u>	<u>20%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	200 points	100% (33.3% of Total Score)

State Advertisement of National Awards

State Farm Bureaus are required to advertise the national prizes **one** time during the year through a print advertisement or an article in the state's publication(s). These promotions will qualify the state entries to receive the national prizes, should they be the winner or finalist of one of the national competitions. The advertisement and/or article submitted **must be specific** to promoting YF&R Competitions and must recognize the sponsors.

PowerPoint Competitor Template

PowerPoint competitor templates that highlight the state entry must be completed using the template provided by AFBF. This template is available from the state YF&R coordinator. It should include the applicant's bio, written in third person, and 2-3 pictures of the applicant and their agricultural operation or involvement. *All pictures and presentations become the property of AFBF.*

Deadline

States are encouraged to select their entries in time for recognition at their state annual meeting. Each state's entry form and application, PowerPoint slides and proof of state advertisement of national awards must be included with the state's single cover sheet and be emailed to yfr@fb.org with a time stamp on or before **11:59 p.m. EST Dec. 9, 2014**, to be considered for national recognition and awards.

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2015 Entry Form

The applicant(s) should read this entry form and application carefully before completing any part of it. The state's entry form and application, PowerPoint slides and proof of state advertisement of national awards must be included with a state's single cover sheet and be emailed to **yfr@fb.org** with a time stamp on or before **11:59 p.m. EST Dec. 9, 2014**.

Please electronically complete this form. No handwritten applications will be accepted.

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and your spouse/spousal-equivalent, if married. Please indicate "Applicant 1" (A1) and "Applicant 2" (A2) when responding to question VI.

Applicant(s)*: A1 _____ A2 _____
** Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: A1 _____ A2 _____

Date of Birth: A1 _____ A2 _____

Education/Degree: A1 _____ A2 _____

Short Courses/Specialized Study: A1 _____ A2 _____

Please provide one of the following for verification purposes: (check which form you are providing)

- Copy of Form 1099 or Form W-2
- A letter of verification from your employer or company on letterhead that includes length of employment and a brief description of your job responsibilities

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. **AFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A STATE FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** AFBF reserves the right to use my (our) photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. The photos and/or video footage of the undersigned contestant(s) may also be available to Farm Bureau sponsors. I (we) have not derived a majority of my (our) income from an owned production agricultural enterprise in any of the past three years. By participating in the Event, I (we) warrant that I (we) fully and unconditionally agree to and accept the YF&R official contest rules and the decisions of the AFBF YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

Applicant(s) Signature(s): A1 _____ A2 _____

I hereby certify that the above named applicant(s) is the official state entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for AFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award for 2015.

State President/Administrator: _____ Date: _____

State: _____

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2015 Application

Note: Remember to write in first person narrative for questions I-V. Remember no state specific identifiers.

I. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests)

II. **AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT**

A. Please explain the applicant(s) occupation.

II. AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT (continued)

B. Please explain the applicant's (applicants') personal involvement in agriculture/agribusiness.

III. IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

What does the applicant(s) do to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry?

IV. ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE

A. Please list and explain three important issues that agriculture needs to address in the next five years.

IV. ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE (continued)

- B. Choose one of the issues in your response to IV (A) and discuss how you personally have addressed, or can address, that issue and work towards a resolution.

V. **GOALS**

What goals does the applicant(s) have for the next five years related to his/her career, Farm Bureau involvement and involvement with other organizations?

