American Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award

Rules for 2018 AFBF Annual Convention Competition

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Background

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competition. State Farm Bureaus are encouraged to promote this activity among county Farm Bureaus. Selection of the winning YF&R competitor is based on his/her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. Participation in this program with individual recognition and the resulting publicity will help build the organization. **The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her income subject to normal production risks.** It is recommended that state Farm Bureaus provide, as part of the state recognition award, an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF Annual Convention held in 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee, Jan. 5-10. 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 Achievement Award 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 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, 2018.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her income coming from production agriculture.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one national YF&R competition per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors 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. The written versions of the application have a search feature to locate any identifiers.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-VI. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VII.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms. AFBF, FB, and YF&R are acceptable to use throughout the application.
- The attached entry form and application is an example of the information needed for the official online application. Authorized state representatives will have access to the online portal for official state submission. No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted.
- State Farm Bureaus have permission to reproduce the attached entry form for state level competition or as a recruitment tool.

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

Judging

- The entry form and application of each state entry will be coded upon receipt by AFBF. The applicant's name and state will not be revealed to the judges until judging is completed.
- Judging is based on the application sent to AFBF by the state Farm Bureau and an interview during the AFBF Annual Convention.
- A panel of three qualified judges will select the national winners. The Top 10 competitors will be interviewed by the same three judges who reviewed the written applications.
- Interviews will be up to 20 minutes in length and are intended to clear up any "gray areas" which may arise from the written application. The Top 10 competitors should understand that their interview is for verification/clarification purposes and therefore may affect final rankings.
- During the interview process, only the named applicant(s) on the entry form is permitted into the interview, and the applicant(s) should refrain from using the name of his/her state or county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of his/her state. Applicants can refer to each other by their first name throughout the interview.
- Values used in judging the applications will be:

Farm Operation and Growth:	70 points	
Financial Progress of Operation:	60 points	
Farm Bureau Leadership:	40 points	
Other Leadership:	30 points	(Agriculture = 15 points, Community = 10 points, Goals = 5 points)
Total:	**200 points**	

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 the AFBF YF&R competitions and must recognize the national 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 his/her 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. The state's entry form and application must be submitted via the online portal **on or before 11:59 a.m. EST Dec. 14, 2017. The state's signed cover page, national awards advertisement and competitor PowerPoints are also due at this time** to be considered for national recognition and awards.

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2018 Entry Form

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Please submit this form via the online application process. No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted.

The state's entry form and application must be submitted via the online portal **on or before 11:59 a.m. EST Dec. 14, 2017.**

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) on 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 _____

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 APLICATIONS 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. 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 Achievement Award for 2018.

State President/Administrator: _____ Date: _____

State: _____

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2018 Application

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Note: This application should reflect the operations of the immediate past tax accounting year. Remember to complete the application using first person narration for questions I-VI, and using A1 and A2 for question VII.

I. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests) – ***Approximately 1,500 characters***

II. **AGRICULTURAL STATUS** (Select all that apply) –

A. ◯ Owner ◯ Renter ◯ Manager

Please explain if:
◯ Partnership ◯ Corporation ◯ Joint Venture ◯ Other

Explanation – ***Approximately 250 characters*****:**

B. Please indicate and justify the percentage of contribution in the operation by the applicant(s) in the following areas:

_____ % personal capital involved

_____ % management/decision making

C. Please list specific responsibilities of the applicant(s) – ***Approximately 900 characters***:

D. Total acres operated: _____ Acres owned: _____

E. Year applicant(s) started farming or ranching: _____

III. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATION –** ***Approximately 1,100 characters per section***

A. List major crops you produce (indicate if irrigated), comparing your first year of production to your current production.
Include number of acres for your first year, and your current acreage and yield per acre for the current year (2015). For each new crop, start a new line. Format in the following example:

- *Orchardgrass Hay (Irrigated): 2010 - 5 acres: 2015 - 10 acres, 6 round bales/acre*

B. Under "Volume of Production," indicate number of head, pounds, dozen or other appropriate measure of volume. List each enterprise on a separate line. Format in the following manner:

- *Commercial Cow/Calf Operation: 2010 - 25 head; 2015 - 56 head*

C. Please be creative in explaining the operation if the agricultural enterprise does not fit within Sections A and B – ***Approximately 2,000 characters***.

III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued) – *Approximately 2,500 characters per section*

D. How was the agricultural operation acquired? Indicate, in narrative form, what portion of the operation was purchased or personally earned by the applicant(s), acquired through inheritance, or acquired through partnership conversion, rental, or by a contract or management arrangement.

E. List other agricultural or related business enterprises, describing the size, relationship and importance to the total operation (i.e., custom harvesting, processing, ag tourism, etc.).

III. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued) -** ***Approximately 5,000 characters***

F. Describe significant changes, expansion or improvement in management and marketing practices, and the acquisition of agricultural machinery, equipment and irrigation systems, and/or buildings built or devised by the applicant(s) since his/her involvement in the operation began.

IV. **APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT – *Upload signed document as PDF***

Note: All information submitted is regarded as confidential, and upon completion of judging, all applications are returned to the AFBF office to be destroyed.

Current market value of the **share of just the applicant(s)** of:

	First Year: _____	**2016**	**2015**	**2014**
A. **ASSETS**				
1. Value of land, building & other improvements				
2. Value of machinery & equipment				
3. Value of livestock & poultry				
4. Value of crops & supplies on hand				
5. Value of cash, stocks, bonds, other personal assets				
6. Non-ag assets (primary dwelling, rental homes, etc.)				
TOTAL ASSETS				
B. **LIABILITIES**				
1. Current liabilities (less than one year)				
2. Intermediate liabilities				
3. Long-term liabilities (10 years and up)				
TOTAL LIABILITIES				
NET WORTH (total assets-total liabilities)				
DEBT/ASSET RATIO (total liabilities/total assets)				
C. **AG EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS**				
1. Total agricultural expenses				
2. Total agricultural receipts				
OPERATING EXPENSE RATIO (total ag expenses/total ag receipts)				

Please explain any situations or circumstances that may have affected the above financial numbers:

Banker/Loan Officer/Tax Accountant Signature: _____

IV. **APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT (continued) – *Approximately 2,500 characters per section***

Note: All information submitted is regarded as confidential, and upon completion of judging, all applications are returned to the AFBF office to be destroyed.

D. Indicate other sources of income and property acquisition during the years the applicant(s) has been farming, such as off-farm employment, spouse/spousal-equivalent's income, gifts, prizes and/or inheritances.

E. Discuss any unusual situations/problems that may have affected the operation that the applicant(s) has overcome and solved.

V. **Progress of Operation –** ***Approximately 5,000 characters***

A. List specific goals or objectives and achievements gained for production efficiency developed by the applicant(s) in improving the quality of the farming program such as: weight of pigs at 56 days, ratio of pounds of feed to pounds of gain, cost per 100 pounds of gain, pounds of butterfat per cow or yield per acre, efficient land use, or acreage increases. List each goal on a new line. Follow the following format:

- *2010 Goals: Establish a purebred Angus cow herd; 2014 Achievement: currently own 50 head; Future Goal: increase herd by 10% each year*

V. **PROGRESS OF OPERATION (continued) -** ***Approximately 2,500 characters per section***

B. Describe ways in which the applicant(s) measures and evaluates the management of his/her farming operation.

C. Indicate plans the applicant(s) has for future expansion, improvements or changes in the agricultural operation.

VI. **GOALS -** ***Approximately 5,000 characters***

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

VII. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE -** ***Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)***
Note: This applies to both applicants, if applying together. Please indicate A1 and A2 when applicable.

A. List Farm Bureau leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. Please include years of involvement. *Example: A1 – Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2015-2016)*

County Farm Bureau

State/American Farm Bureau

VII. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued) -** ***Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)***

B. List other agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, 4-H, etc.) Please include organization, description and years of involvement.)
Example: A1 and A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2013 – present)

Organization	**Description**	**Years**

C. List other community and non-agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. (i.e. civic/service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.) Please include organization, description and years of involvement.)
Example: A1 – Local Elementary School, Served as PTA President (2015-2016)

Organization	**Description**	**Years**