Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is looking for the people who are at the top of their league in agriculture.

Do you work off the farm? Are you a leader in Farm Bureau and your community?

This contest is for you!

This award is designed to recognize successful young agricultural professionals (singles or couples), who are actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau (local and state involvement), and agriculture.

Four state semifinalists will be selected from among county winners in 2011. These contestants will be honored at the Ohio Farm Bureau Leadership Conference in Columbus, August 5-6, 2011 where the state winner and representative to the American Farm Bureau Federation will be announced.

Jenifer Weaver, Mahoning County

2010 Excellence in Agriculture winner

EXCELLENCE in AGRICULTURE

ELIGIBILITY

COUNTY CONTEST

- Farm Bureau member
- 35 years or younger as of 1/31/12
- An applicant can be either an individual or a married couple. If married, husband and wife may apply as individuals or as co-applicants.
- Past state Outstanding Young Farmer/Young Farm Couple Contest winners are not eligible to compete.
- Previous OFBF and AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- The ideal candidate is an individual or couple who are nonproduction agriculturalists that promote the ag industry through their daily work routine.
- May compete in only one of the OFBF contests in a single year: Outstanding Young Farmer, Discussion Meet, or Excellence in Agriculture.
- Ohio Farm Bureau Young Agricultural Professionals Advisory Team members (current members and those beginning their term at the end of this year) are ineligible.
- Past and present members of the AFBF YF & R Committee may not apply.
- County, state and AFBF employees are not eligible, as well as affiliate companies.
- Applicants must not have derived a majority of their income from an owned production agriculture enterprise for the past three years.

STATE CONTEST

- Same criteria as county contest with the addition that county winners from this and previous years may apply.
- State semifinalists ONLY will be required to give a presentation at the state contest.

DEADLINE: All applications must be sent to your county Farm Bureau office by June 17, 2011.

VIDEOS, PHOTOS & BIOS

Enclose twelve – 4"x6" color prints including one photo of the family and two photos of the operation. Photos will not be used for judging and are for promotional purposes. Photos become property of OFBF. Please send the photos digitally as well as on a CD, using no less than a 3 megapixel resolution for each photo. On the same CD, please include the biographical information you will provide in this application.

New this year, all applicants must submit a 1-3 minute digital video introducing themselves, their farm, their passion for agriculture and why they value Farm Bureau. For more details, see

the *What's your story?* introduction videos for the Young Agricultural Professionals Contests resource on the contest application page at http://ofbf.org/get-involved/resources/100/.

JUDGING

Teams of qualified judges will select four semifinalists.

Scoring will be based on:

- Involvement in agriculture
- Leadership ability
- Involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community)
- Presentation (STATE FINALS ONLY)

PRESENTATION FORMAT

The presentation is an interview that gives contestants an opportunity to share the information within their application. See application for specific instructions.

COUNTY LEVEL

(Presentation optional) Contestants may use two types of visual aid (PowerPoint, photos, posters, slides, flip chart, overhead, etc.)

STATE LEVEL

Contestants will deliver their presentation through a PowerPoint presentation to comply with AFBF guidelines.

The guidelines of the presentation are:

- Introduction and presentation: Maximum of 12 slides on the issues addressed in the application as well as past and present accomplishments and future goals — 15 minutes.
- Moving bullet points into the slide is permitted and will not be counted as an additional slide.
- Question and answer session — 10 minutes.
- Verbal and PowerPoint references to your name and county will be allowed during presentations.
- Dress should be business attire.
- No sound is allowed in PowerPoint presentation.
- No props are allowed.

An IBM laptop and digital projector will be provided for the presentation at the state level.

APPLICATION

Entry form and application can be downloaded at ofbf.org, click on *Featured Links*. An electronic copy is also available upon request by contacting your county office or Regina Mayhugh at 614-246-8285.

HOW YOU BENEFIT BY PARTICIPATING:

- Highlight your strongest leadership strengths
- Sharpen valuable communication skills by sharing your passion for agriculture
- Receive recognition for your leadership in Farm Bureau, agriculture and other organizations
- Promote diverse careers within agriculture to many generations

COMPETITION & AWARDS

STATE SEMIFINALISTS

- One-night lodging at the OFBF Leadership Conference in Columbus, August 5, 2011

STATE WINNERS

- A John Deere Gator, sponsored by Farm Credit Services
- $1,000 technology package redeemable at Staples, Best Buy or Amazon.com, sponsored by Ohio Farm Bureau
- Expense-paid trip to American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, January 8-11, 2012

NATIONAL WINNERS

- Paid registration to the 2012 YF&R Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 18-20, 2012

National winner prizes to be announced.

Farm Credit Services OF MID-AMERICA

OHIO FARM BUREAU