

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is looking for the *Top Young Farmers* in the state of Ohio.

These awards are designed to recognize successful young farmers, 35 years of age and younger, for achievement in the business of farming and leadership and involvement in the agricultural community, particularly within local and state Farm Bureau.

Four state semifinalists, regardless of region, will be selected from county winners in 2011 and from previous years. These contestants will be honored at the Ohio Farm Bureau Leadership Conference in Columbus, August 5-6, 2011 where the state winner will be announced.



Adam & Aubrey Bolender,
Brown County
2010 Outstanding Young Farmers

OUT- STANDING YOUNG FARMER

ELIGIBILITY

COUNTY CONTEST

- Must be a farmer/voting member of your county Farm Bureau.
- 35 years or younger as of 1/31/12
- Engaged in production agriculture.
- Open to both couples and singles. Both husband and wife must meet age requirements.
- May compete in only one of the OFBF contests in a single year: Outstanding Young Farmer, Discussion Meet, or Excellence in Agriculture.
- Past and present members of the AFBF YF & R Committee may not apply.
- County, state and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible, as well as affiliate companies.

DEADLINE: Contact your county Farm Bureau.

STATE CONTEST

- Only county winners from this year and previous years may apply.
- Farm Bureau member
- 35 years or younger as of 1/31/12
- Engaged in production agriculture.
- Open to both couples and singles. Both husband and wife must meet age requirements.

- May compete in only one of the OFBF contests in a single year: Outstanding Young Farmer, Discussion Meet, or Excellence in Agriculture.
- Previous state winners and Ohio Farm Bureau Young Agricultural Professionals Advisory Team members (current members and those beginning their term at the end of this year) are ineligible.

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

VIDEO, PHOTOS, PRESENTATION AND BIOS

Enclose twelve – 4x6 color prints including one photo of the family and two photos of the operation. The photos will not be used for judging but will be used by OFBF for promotional purposes. All photos become property of OFBF. In addition to submitting the actual photos, please send the photos digitally as well as on 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.

Also new this year, the three Outstanding Young Farmer Contest finalists will develop and present a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation for their judging interview.

The presentation will give contestants the opportunity to share their farm story, farm management, Farm Bureau involvement, leadership accomplishments and issues they see facing agriculture. An IBM laptop and digital projector will be provided for the presentation.

For more information and helpful tips, please refer to the "Power-Point Presentation Instructions for the Outstanding Young Farmer Contest" document at <http://ofbf.org/get-involved/resources/100/>.

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/>.

STATE JUDGING

Teams of qualified judges will select four state semifinalists (regardless of region) from among the county winners in 2010 and previous years. A different panel of judges will select a state winner from the three state semifinalists. The state winner will then compete in the AFBF Achievement Award Contest at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting.

SCORING WILL BE BASED ON:
Farming operation | Leadership | Organization | Involvement in Farm Bureau | An interview will be factored into the state finals judging.



CONFIDENTIALITY

The judges will be interviewing the four state semifinalists personally. Our judges are of the highest professional caliber, and understand that all sensitive information must be kept completely confidential and will do whatever they can to protect the privacy of the contestants.

AFBF COMPETITION

AFBF requires financial information. After the top 10 state candidates are selected based on their application, the judges will interview the finalists. At that time, the judges will know each candidate's name and financial records. The financial information will not be disclosed.

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:

- Strengthen your business planning skills
- Receive statewide recognition of your operation, Farm Bureau involvement, community service and participation in other organizations
- Develop new publicity/marketing opportunities
- Create networking opportunities with others who love agriculture

COMPETITION & AWARDS

STATE FINALISTS

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

STATE WINNER

- Expense-paid trip to American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, January 8-11, 2012
- \$1,000 in Grainger merchandise by Farm Credit Services
- Free use, for a max of 250 hours, of a Kubota M-series tractor of choice, provided by Kubota (must be returned by December 15, 2012)

NATIONAL WINNER

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

National winner prizes to be announced.

Kubota



Farm Credit Services
OF MID-AMERICA

