

American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award

Rules for 2014 AFBF Annual Meeting Competitive Event

Background

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competitive event. 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 Meeting held in 2014 in San Antonio. Appropriate recognition will be given to all the national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Meeting. 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 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 not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31.
- 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 Competitive Event per 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.
- 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 entry form and application must be completed in third person, using "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant, and 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 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.

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 the interview during the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- 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 not use his/her name, the name of his/her state or county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of his/her state.
- 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, Youth = 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 publications. These promotions will qualify the state entries to receive the national prizes, should they be the winner or finalist of one of the national competitive events. The advertisement and/or article submitted **must be specific** to promoting YF&R Competitive Events 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 his/her agricultural operation or involvement. *All pictures and presentations become 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 emailed to angelab@fb.org and time stamped on or before **11:59 p.m. EST Dec. 10, 2013**, to be considered for national recognition and awards.

**American Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award**

2014 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 emailed to **angelab@fb.org** and time stamped on or before **11:59 p.m. EST Dec. 10, 2013**.

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 applicable.

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 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 sponsors of Farm Bureau events. 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 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 2014.

State President/Administrator: _____ Date: _____

State: _____

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2014 Application

Note: This application should reflect the operations of the immediate past tax accounting year. Remember to use "A1" and "A2" when referring to applicants.

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

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

- A. Owner Renter Manager
- Please explain if:
- Partnership Corporation Joint Venture Other

Explanation:

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):

D. Total acres operated: _____ Acres owned: _____

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

III. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATION**

A. List Major Crops*	First Year: _____	Current Year	
	<i>No. of Acres</i>	<i>No. of Acres</i>	<i>Yield per Acre</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Indicate if irrigated*

B. Under "Volume of Production," indicate number of head, pounds, dozen or other appropriate measure of volume.

Enterprise	First Year: _____	<u>Volume of Production</u>
		Current Year
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

C. Please be creative in explaining the operation if the agricultural enterprise does not fit within Sections A and B.

III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued)

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)

- 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

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:

A. ASSETS	First Year: _____	2012	2011	2010
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 non-farm real estate assets	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Value of cash, stocks, bonds, other personal assets	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. 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)**

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 (continued)**

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. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)

- 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. (For example, Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, 4-H, etc.)

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. (For example, civic/service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.)

Organization	Description	Years

VI. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)**

- D. 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?