

# **Outstanding Young Farmer**

**2023 APPLICATION**



**YOUNG AG  
PROFESSIONALS**

**Deadline to apply, December 30, 2022**

**Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Ag Professionals - Outstanding Young Farmer Award**

**Rules for 2023 Ohio Farm Bureau State Competition**

**Purpose:**

Recognize young farmers/ranchers for their achievements in production agriculture and leadership.

**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. **The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.**

**Prizes**

As part of the state recognition and award, an expense-paid trip to the 2024 AFBF Annual Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 19-23. Appropriate recognition will be given to all national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Convention. In addition to the expense-paid trip to the national convention, the state winner will also receive a \$3,000 cash prize, an expense-paid trip to Ohio Farm Bureau annual meeting and the 2023 Winter Leadership Experience.

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. **The Ohio Farm Bureau State Winner will be required to complete the full Achievement Award application as provided by the American Farm Bureau Federation.**

**Eligibility:**

**The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.**

- 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 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached his/her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday by the completion of the competition. Competitors qualify at the time the national application is submitted and the completion of the competition is the day awards are given out (Monday, January 22, 2024).
- Applicant(s) must be in attendance on-site at the AFBF Annual Convention to compete nationally.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her gross income coming from production agriculture. Applicant(s) must have at least three years of financial records showing that the majority of income came 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.
- Previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete. Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners are eligible if they have not previously competed at the national level.
- Current employees or agents of county, state and/or the American Farm Bureau organizations and their affiliates are not eligible to compete. An affiliate is defined as an entity owned or controlled in whole or in part by another entity through, for example, ownership (including partial ownership) or positions on the board of directors. Past employees and interns who were responsible for implementing any of the YF&R Competitive Events in the since January 1, 2019, at the state or national level are ineligible.
- Each state Farm Bureau 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 sections 1-9 and 13. "A1"/"A2" may not be used for sections 1-9 and 13. Applicants must use "A1"/"A2" to denote each applicant for all of sections 10-12.
- The Financial Success section must be typed, signed and notarized; handwritten financial forms will be disqualified. If the notarization includes a state identifier such as a state name or seal, the identifier needs to be blacked out.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms, unless it has been spelled out once with the abbreviation in parentheses behind it. For example, United States Department of Education (USDE). 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 Farm Bureau 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.
- It will be up to the judges' discretion to deduct points if applicants include activities before they were 18.

**Note: Disregard of the guidelines will result in disqualification of the application.**

## **Judging**

- The entry form and application of each state entry will be coded upon receipt by OFBF. 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 OFBF. An interview with the Top 3 finalists during the 2023 Winter Leadership Experience determines final scores and rank.
- A panel of qualified judges will select the state winner. The Top 3 competitors will be interviewed by the same judges who reviewed the written applications.
- Interviews will be up to 20 minutes in length and are intended to evaluate the competitor's command of the farm/ranch business and financials, familiarity of the contents of the application and appreciation for the value of Farm Bureau (see rubric). In addition to the 5 points allocated for the interview, judges may alter scores from other sections based on what they learn during the interview.
- 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.

## **Scoring:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points</b>
1. Personal Background	25
2. Scope of Farm/Ranch	20
3. Growth & Achievements	30
4. Management Decisions	20
5. Financial Success Part 1: Debt-to-Asset Ratio and Profit	25
6. Financial Success Part 2: Analysis and Record Keeping	15
7. Financial Success Part 3: Off-Farm Income	15
8. Leadership Experience: Farm Bureau	30
9. Leadership Growth and Development	15
<b>Total Application Points</b>	<b>195</b>
Interview (Top 3 competitors only)	5
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>200</b>

**\*\*The chart above is not the rubric. Please refer to the separate rubric document for all scoring criteria.**

**Ohio Farm Bureau Federation**  
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**2023 Entry Form**

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 **on or before 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST Dec. 30, 2022**. All applications must be sent via email to Kelsey Turner at [ktturner@ofbf.org](mailto:ktturner@ofbf.org)

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 questions 10-12.

Applicant(s)\*: A1: \_\_\_\_\_ A2: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: A1: \_\_\_\_\_ A2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: A1: \_\_\_\_\_ A2: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

- a. Briefly tell us about yourself, your family, education, and personal interests. **Approximately 2,500 characters**

**2. SCOPE OF YOUR FARM OR RANCH**

- a. Explain the ownership structure of your farm/ranch and your vested interest. Please include all enterprises in your explanation, if applicable. **Approximately 2,000 characters**

- b. What percentage of the farm/ranch management decisions are you responsible for? Please break down for each enterprise, if applicable. **Approximately - 5 lines**

Enterprise	% Management Decisions

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**3. GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

- a. Please tell the story of your farm growth since your first year of owning/managing your farm/ranch. Use specific examples to show how your operation has grown and highlight your contributions to the success of the operation over time. **Approximately 2,000 characters**

**4. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS**

Discuss up to two impactful strategic or management decisions you have made on your farm/ranch, why you made them, and the changes that resulted from implementing those decisions. **Approximately 3,500 characters**

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**5. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 1**

*NOTE: In considering financial situation, judges will consider the whole application and how the financials are connected to the history, goals and strategies of the farm/ranch. Financials are not to be evaluated independent of the other sections.  
\*All figures must appear as whole numbers.*

- a. Using the grid below, please show your debt-to-asset ratio, including farm/ranch/personal debts and assets for each year requested:

Year	Total Debt (combined farm/ranch and personal debt)	Total Assets (combined farm/ranch and personal assets)	Debt to Asset Ratio (total debt divided by total assets)
First year (____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
2022 year-end projections			

Please indicate whether the above reflects:

the portion of the farm/ranch you own, as indicated in 2(a).

OR

the portion of the farm/ranch for which you make management decisions *if more than the amount you own*, as indicated in 2(b).

Give an explanation of related irregularities or strategies, if needed: **Approximately 1,000 characters**

**6. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 2**

- a. Describe the practices you use to evaluate the financial success of your farm/ranch, including ratios or analysis, record keeping systems and/or advisors used to support successful financial management.  
**Approximately 2,000 characters**

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**7. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 3**

- a. Do you have any other income not otherwise shown in the financials section (such as supporting agribusinesses)? If so, how is that income used? **Approximately 1,000 characters**

**8. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: FARM BUREAU (from age 18 to current)**

*Note: This applies to both applicants, if applying together. Please indicate A1 and A2 when applicable.*

List Farm Bureau leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers. Please include years and level of involvement (county, state, national).

*Example: A1 – Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2018-2019)*

**County, State, American Farm Bureau**

**9. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS (from age 18 to current)**