

**American Farm Bureau Federation**  
**Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award**  
**Rules for 2021 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 net 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 2021 in San Diego, California, Jan. 8-13. Appropriate recognition will be given to all national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Convention. The AFBF YF&R Committee and the AFBF Leadership, Education and Engagement Department will coordinate the program at the national level.

**COVID-19: If AFBF is unable to hold the 2021 Annual Convention in-person due to COVID-19, the competitive events will be held virtually, and all applicants should be made aware of this possibility prior to their application.** If the competition will be virtual, all contestants will be given the opportunity to withdraw their application for 2021 to ensure eligibility for future years.

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 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 Jan. 31, 2021.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her net 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 who were responsible for implementing any of the YF&R Competitive Events at the state or national level are ineligible.
- 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 1-6. "A1"/"A2" may not be used for questions 1-6. Applicants must use "A1"/"A2" to denote each applicant for all of question 7.
- The Financial Statement must be typed 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 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 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 four qualified judges will select the national winners. The Top 10 competitors will be interviewed by the same four 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. The judges have discretion to change their rankings of the applications after the interviews are complete.
- 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)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>200 points</b>	

**State Promotion of National Awards**

State Farm Bureaus are required to advertise the national prizes **one** time during the year through a print advertisement, an article in the state's publication(s), or on social media. 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. **Promotion 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 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST Dec. 14, 2020. The state's signed verification form, signature page, national awards advertisement and competitor PowerPoints are also due at this time** to be considered for national recognition and awards.

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

**2021 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 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST Dec. 14, 2020.**

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 7.

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 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.

**COVID-19**

If AFBF is unable to hold the 2021 Annual Convention in-person due to COVID-19, the competitive events will be held virtually. In the event of virtual competitions, changes in timing and format of the competitions are likely to be required. For example, some portions of the competition may take place prior to the virtual convention. Applicants will be advised as soon as possible after the decision is made. If the competitions will be virtual, all contestants will be given the opportunity to withdraw their applications for 2021 to ensure eligibility for future years.

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 2021.

State President/Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**2021 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 (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-6, and using A1 and A2 for question 7.*

**1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND (family, education and personal interests) – *Approximately 2,000 characters***

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

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

Explanation – ***Approximately 350 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 1,000 characters***

D. Total acres operated: \_\_\_\_\_ Acres owned: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

*\*Indicate if irrigated*

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

Enterprise	First Year: _____	Volume of Production	Current Year
	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

**3. 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.).

**3. 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.

**4. APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Upload typed, signed and notarized document as a PDF. (No handwritten financials will be accepted.)**  
*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. <b>ASSETS</b>	First Year: _____	2019	2018	2017
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.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____
B. <b>LIABILITIES</b>				
1. Current liabilities (less than one year)	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Intermediate liabilities	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Long-term liabilities (10 years and up)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>NET WORTH</b> (total assets-total liabilities)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>DEBT/ASSET RATIO</b> (total liabilities/total assets)	_____	_____	_____	_____
C. <b>AG EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS</b>				
1. Total agricultural expenses	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Total agricultural receipts	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE RATIO</b> (total ag expenses/total ag receipts)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please explain any situations or circumstances that may have affected the above financial numbers: (Approximately 750 characters)

Banker/Loan Officer/Tax Accountant Signature:

Notary Public Signature and Stamp:

\*\*If the state name is listed on the stamp, please block it out.



**4. APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT (continued) – Approximately 3,000 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.

**5. 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: weaning 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.  
For example: Goal first year - Improve environmental impact through production practices; Current Achievement - Received "Clean Water Farm Award" for my regional watershed; Future Goals - Add national recognition across multiple watersheds.

**Goals in First Year**

**Current Achievement**

**Future Goals**


**5. PROGRESS OF OPERATION (continued) - *Approximately 3,000 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.

**6. 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? What steps have been made to reach these goals?

**7. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (from age 18 to current) - 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 (2018-2019)*

**County Farm Bureau**

**State/American Farm Bureau**

**7. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (from age 18 to current) - 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)*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Years</b>
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- 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 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President (2017-2018)*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Years</b>
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- D. If you had any situations or circumstances that may affected your leadership experiences, please use this space to explain. If you don't have any situations or circumstances, please leave blank.

***Approximately 250 characters***

*Note: There are no points associated to this section and can be left blank.*