

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award
Rules for 2018 MFBF Annual Meeting Competition

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Background

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competition. County 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.** The Minnesota Farm Bureau as part of the state recognition award, will award expenses-paid trip to the AFBF Annual Convention held in 2019 in New Orleans, Louisiana, Jan. 11-16. Appropriate recognition will be given to all national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Convention. The MFBF YF&R Committee and the MFBF YF&R Committee and the MFB Foundation will coordinate the program at the state 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 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 18th birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31, 2019.
- 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.
- Each state may submit one entry to be considered for national recognition and must use the AFBF entry form and application.
- Applicant may decide to opt out of advancing to national competition.

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. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question seven (7).
- The Financial Statement must be typed and notarized; handwritten financial forms will be disqualified.
- 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.

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 MFBF. The applicant's name and state will not be revealed to the judges until judging is completed.
- Judging is based on the application and an interview during the MFBF Annual Convention.
- A panel of three qualified judges will select the state winners.
- 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.
- 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.
- All those applying will be interviewed, even if you have "chosen" the opt out option.
- 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)
Total:	200 points	

Short Biography: Contest MUST submit to a short biography in third person and include 2-3 pictures of the applicant and his/her agricultural operation or involvement. All pictures and presentations become property of MFBF.

State Awards

- 1st Place Prize - \$500 Check, 2nd Place Prize - \$250 Check
- **American Farm Bureau Convention** – The MFBF Achievement Award winner and spouse/spousal-equivalent will be awarded transportation, lodging and registration costs necessary to compete in the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award competition and participating in the recognition and awards program at the AFBF Annual Convention held in 2019 in New Orleans.
- **Farmers to Washington D.C. trip** – The finalists will have the opportunity to take part in the 2019 MFBF Farmers to Washington D.C. trip. A fee of \$150 per finalist will be charged to the individuals. It will include round trip airfare, lodging while in Washington D.C., sightseeing tours and some meals. The participants will meet with their Congressional delegation, top governmental officials and the American Farm Bureau Federation government affairs staff. Counties will also pay a matching \$150. Spouse/spousal-equivalent is welcome to participate at own expense (less hotel).
- **MFBF Leadership Conference** – The winner of the MFBF Achievement Award competition and their spouse/spousal-equivalent will receive a complimentary registration and hotel room at the 2019 MFBF Leadership Conference.

Deadline

The entry form and application must be submitted via the online or postmarked **on or before September 15, 2018.**

Advancement Option

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee announced in 2017 a program to help grow our competitive contests and allow those interested to grow their operations and build their leadership skills by announcing an Advancement Option.

How it works:

The Advancement Option allows you to be a part of the competitive process of the contests without the “competitiveness”. Potential applicants get to compete and be judged and learn about how you can grow your farming operations and in their own personal development.

You are judged but NOT ranked like the other full competitors of the contests and therefore you are ineligible to advance onto national competition. This allows you to come back and compete in the contest in future years.

Guidelines:

You must agree to this option prior to the competition and you must circle this option on your signature page.

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

2018 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 **or postmarked by September 15, 2018.**

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.. MFBF 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 MFBF YF&R Committee, which are final and binding. I also understand that if the applicant is a finalist the county will agree to pay \$150 for the Farmers' to Washington D.C. Trip.

We would like to take advantage of the Advancement Option (Please circle): Yes No

Applicant(s) Signature(s): A1 _____ A2 _____

I hereby certify that the above-named applicant(s) is the official county entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award for 2018.

County President: _____ Date: _____

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. ASSETS	First Year: _____	2017	2016	2015
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.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
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:

Notary Public Signature and Stamp:

4. APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT (continued) – Approximately 2,500 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 (continued) - *Approximately 2,500 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?

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 (2015-2016)*

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)

Organization	Description	Years
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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 (2015-2016)

Organization	Description	Years
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