

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award

Rules for 2018 MFBF Annual Convention Competition

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Background

The Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Excellence in Agriculture Award competition is designed as an opportunity for young farmers and ranchers to earn recognition, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, and participation/involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community). **The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who does not have the majority of his/her net income subject to normal production risk.** The Minnesota Farm Bureau will provide an 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 Foundation will coordinate the program at the national level.

Information about the Excellence in Agriculture 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 not have derived a majority of his/her net income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in any of the past three years.
- 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.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award competitors are not eligible to compete. Past state YF&R Excellence in Agriculture 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.

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. Verbal and presentation reference to applicants' name, state and county will be allowed during your presentation for personalization of presentation.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-5. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question 6.
- 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). MFBF, 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 will be accepted.

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

Presentation Guidelines

- The presentation will be an interactive, 25-minute presentation, in which the applicant(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of his/her entire application in narrative form with a panel of three judges and the audience.
 - Applicant(s) will have 25 minutes to present on the topics addressed in the application and address questions from the judges. It will be up to the applicant(s) to determine how they use this time. Applicants will be notified by the time

keeper when 10 minutes are remaining and again when five (5) minutes are remaining. Time will be called and conclude the applicant's time in front of the judges at 25 minutes.

- The only visual means in which to deliver the information is through a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation. The applicant(s) needs to submit their presentation on a USB flash drive during the Excellence in Agriculture Competitor Orientation. A computer, LCD projector, screen and one slide advancer remote will be provided. All presentations must be formatted to work on a PC. Contestants will not be allowed to use their own computer.
- Verbal and presentation references to applicant(s) name, state and county will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props (including notes), sound or video of any kind will be allowed during the presentation.
- Applicants are not allowed to view other presentations until after they have completed their own.

Judging

- All applications will be judged prior to the MFBF Annual Convention. Applicants will present to a different set of judges at the Annual Convention.

<u>Application</u>		<u>Approx. %</u>
Questions 2-4	150 points	37.5%
*Ag Involvement, Impact on Ag and Issues Facing Ag Goals	20 points	5%
Farm Bureau Experience	120 points	30%
Other Leadership Experience	80 points	20%
Application Form	30 points	7.5%
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 points	100% (80% of Total Score)
<u>Presentation</u>		
Delivery of Presentation	40 points	40%
Content of Presentation	30 points	30%
<u>Responses to Questions</u>	30 points	30%
MAXIMUM POINTS	100 points	100% (20% of Total Score)

State Awards

- **1st Place Prize** - \$500 Check, other prizes may be announced.
- **2nd Place Prize** - \$250 Check, other prizes may be announced.
- **American Farm Bureau Convention** - The MFBF Excellence in Agriculture 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 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 Excellence in Agriculture 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 **or postmarked by 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 their farming operations and grown 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 to 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. You must circle this option on your signature page.

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture 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) when responding to question 6.

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 _____

Please provide one of the following for verification purposes - ***upload to the application site:***

Copy of Form 1099 or Form W-2

A letter of verification from your employer or company on letterhead that includes length of employment and a brief description of your job responsibilities

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. **MFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A STATE FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** 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. I (we) have not derived a majority of my (our) income from an owned production agricultural enterprise in any of the past three years. 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 that the county will agree to pay \$150 for the Farmer's to Washington D.C. Trip.

I/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 state entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for MFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award for 2018.

County President _____ Date: _____

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Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

2018 Application

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Note: Remember to write in first person narrative for questions 1-5. Remember no state specific identifiers.

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

2. **AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT**

A. Please explain the applicant(s) occupation – *Approximately 2,500 characters.*

2. AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT (continued) - *Approximately 2,500 characters.*

B. Please explain the applicant's (applicants') personal involvement in agriculture/agribusiness.

3. IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE - *Approximately 2,500 characters.*

What does the applicant(s) do to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry?

4. **ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE - *Approximately 5,000 characters.***

A. Please list and explain three important issues that agriculture needs to address in the next five years.

4. ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE (continued) – *Approximately 5,000 characters.*

- B. Choose one of the issues in your response to 4A and discuss how you personally have addressed, or can address, that issue and work towards a resolution.

5. GOALS - *Approximately 5,000 characters.*

What goals does the applicant(s) have for the next five years related to his/her career, Farm Bureau involvement and involvement with other organizations?

6. 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/Minnesota Farm Bureau

6. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)- 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 & A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2013 – present)

- 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 (2015-2017)