

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmer and Agriculturist Achievement Award Short Form**

Rules for 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Competitive Event

Background

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Achievement Award competition. County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to promote this activity. Selection of the winning YFA 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 county Farm Bureaus provide, as part of the county recognition award, an expenses-paid trip to the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference, December 1-3, 2017 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Appropriate recognition will be given to all state competitors in attendance at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. The WFBF YFA Committee and the WFBF Director of Training and Leadership Development 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 in Wisconsin. 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, 2018.
- 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 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 YFA Achievement Award winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Members of the WFBF YFA Committee are ineligible to compete unless the committee member is in their last year of YFA program eligibility.
- Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureaus and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation YFA Achievement Award recognizes couples as outlined above in the eligibility requirements in this competitive event. This is derived from the names on the applicant line. If the applicant is part of a couple, but only one person is eligible, do not include any details concerning the other person.

Entry Form and Application Guidelines

- Do not use your name, name of your county or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of your county beyond the entry form (p. 1)
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-VI. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VII, 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.
- Only the named applicant(s) on the entry form are permitted into the interview.
- Counties have permission to reproduce the attached application form.

Note: Disregarding any of the guidelines listed above will result in disqualification.

Judging

- Information contained in the entry form and application is considered confidential.
- The entry form and application of each county entry will be coded upon receipt by WFBF. The applicant's name and county will not be revealed to the judges until judging is completed.
- Values used in judging the applications will be:
 - Farm Operation and Growth: 50 points
 - Farm Bureau Leadership: 30 points
 - Other Leadership: 20 points
 - Total: 100 points**
- The short form application will be judged by a panel of three qualified judges. Each judge may award a maximum of 100 points. The maximum application points a contestant may earn are 300 points.
- The Final Four contestants are chosen based on this system. **The final four contestants will complete the long form application which will be used by a three-judge panel to score the long form application and during the interview on Saturday, December 2 at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.**

Deadline

Applications are **due at the WFBF office no later than 4 p.m. on July 10** to be considered for state recognition and awards. Applications may be submitted via email to Wendy Kannel at wkannel@wfbf.com or snail mail:

WFBF

Attn: Wendy Kannel

P.O. Box 5550

Madison, WI 53705-0550

Pictures

All pictures and presentations become property of WFBF.

Final Four

The Final Four contestants will be selected by **August 25**. The Final Four are required to fill out the long form application for consideration as the state winner. The long form application is **due at the WFBF office no later than 4 p.m. on October 2**.

- Interviews will be held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on Saturday, December 2.
- Interviews may be up to 15 minutes in length and are intended to clear up any 'gray areas' which may arise from the written application.
- Judging is based on the application forms sent to WFBF by the county Farm Bureaus and the clarifying interview held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.

Save Your Information

The state WFBF Achievement Award winner's application is sent to AFBF to compete in the national Achievement Award contest. The AFBF national application is slightly different than the WFBF application. The AFBF application is due shortly after the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. It is imperative that each contestant save their information so it may be quickly and easily transferred to the AFBF national application.

Questions? If you have any questions about the application or the contest rules, feel free to contact Wendy Kannel at 608.828.5719 or wkannel@wfbf.com.

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmer and Agriculturist Achievement Award**

2017 Entry Form

The applicant(s) should read this entry form and application carefully before completing any part of it. The county's entry form and application, PowerPoint slides and proof of county advertisement of state awards must be emailed to **wkannel@wfbf.com** and time stamped on or before **4 p.m. July 10, 2017**.

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. **WFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** WFBF 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 YFA official contest rules and the decisions of the WFBF YFA Committee, which are final and binding.

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 WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Achievement Award for 2017.

County President: _____ Date: _____

County: _____

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmer and Agriculturist Achievement Award
2017 Application**

Note: This application should reflect the operations of the immediate past tax accounting year. Remember to complete the application using first person narration for questions I-VI, and using A1 and A2 for question VII.

I. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests) – ***Approximately 1,500 characters***

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

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

Explanation – ***Approximately 250 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 900 characters:***

D. Total acres operated: _____ Acres owned: _____

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

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

A. **List major crops your produce (indicate if irrigated), comparing your first year of production to your current production. – 1,100 character count max.**

Include number of acres for your first year, and your current acreage and yield per acre for the current year (2015). For each new crop, start a new line. Format in the following example:

- i. Orchard grass Hay (irrigated): 2011 - 5 acres; 2015 – 10 acres, 6 round bales/acre*

B. **List enterprises, comparing the volume of production difference between first year of operation and the current year. 1,100 character max**

“Volume of Production” can indicate number of head, pounds, dozen or other appropriate measure of volume. List each enterprise on a separate line. Format in the following manner:

- i. Commercial Cow/Calf Operation: 2011 – 25 head; 2015 – 56 head*

C. **Please be creative in explaining the operation if the agricultural enterprise does not fit within Sections A and B – *Approximately 2,500 characters.***

III. 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.).

III. **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.

VI. **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?

VII. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE - *Approximately 2,500 characters per section*

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.
List each activity on a new line, followed by the applicable year(s). For example:
 - i. *A1 – Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2015-2016)*

Cont'd. – List Farm Bureau leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers at STATE or NATIONAL level. – 2,500 character count max

List each activity on a new line, followed by the applicable year(s). For example:

- i. *A1 & A2 – State Excellence in Agriculture Winners (2015)*

VII. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued) - Approximately 2,500 characters per section**

- 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.)
Please list each organization on a new line, followed by a short description of your involvement, followed by the year(s). For Example:

i. A2 – National FFA Organization: American Degree Recipient (2011)

- 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.)
Please list each organization on a new line, followed by a short description of your involvement, followed by the year(s). For Example:

i. A1 & A2 – Pleasant View Methodist Church: Church Deacons (2012-2016)