

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Excellence in Agriculture Award

Rules for 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Competitive Event

Background

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Excellence in Agriculture Award competitive event is designed as an opportunity for young farmers and agriculturists 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 income subject to normal production risk.** It is recommended that the county Farm Bureaus provide, as part of the county recognition and award, an expenses-paid trip to the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference held 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. The WFBF YFA Committee and the WFBF Director of Training and Leadership Development will coordinate the program at the state 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 spousal-equivalent or 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 not have reached his/her 36th birthday by January 31, 2018
- Applicant(s) must not have derived a majority of his/her income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in any of the past three years.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one national YF&R Competitive Event per year.
- Applicant(s) may compete in either the Achievement Award or the Excellence in Agriculture Award, but not both in the same year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse/spousal-equivalent 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.
- Past state YFA Achievement Award winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YFA Excellence in Agriculture Award winners and/or previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureaus and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's county beyond the entry form. Verbal and presentation reference to your name and county will be allowed during your presentation.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-V. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VI. All questions should be written 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.
- **Entry form and application must be emailed to wkannel@wfbf.com and time stamped on or before 4 p.m. Monday, July 10, 2017.**

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

Presentation Guidelines - FOR FINAL FOUR CONTESTANTS ONLY

- 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 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. 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. The final four contestants must submit their presentation on a USB flash drive to Wendy Kannel at WFBF, Excellence in Agriculture, Attn: Wendy Kannel, P.O. Box 550, Madison, WI 53705 **no later than 4 p.m. on October 31, 2017.**
- Verbal and presentation references to applicant(s) name, state and county will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props (including notes), sound or video will be allowed during the presentation.
- Applicants are not allowed to view other presentations until after they have completed their own.

Pictures

All pictures and presentations become property of WFBF.

Judging

The applications and presentations will be judged by two sets of judges.

<u>Application</u>		<u>Approx %</u>
Questions II-IV	150 points	37.5%
Farm Bureau Experience	120 points	30%
Other Leadership Experience and Goals	100 points	25%
Application Form	<u>30 points</u>	<u>7.5%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 points	100% (80% of Total Score)

<u>Presentation (Top 4 Finalists)</u>		
Delivery of Presentation	40 points	40%
Content of Presentation	30 points	30%
Response to Questions	<u>30 points</u>	<u>30%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	100 points	100% (20% of Total Score)

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmer and Agriculturist Excellence in Agriculture 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 must be emailed to wkannel@wfbf.com and time stamped on or before **4 p.m. Monday, 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 responding to question VI.

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

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. **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. 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 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 is the county winner in our YFA Excellence in Agriculture competitive event and is eligible to be entered and considered for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Farm Bureau YFA Excellence in Agriculture Award. Our county Farm Bureau agrees to pay for the county winner to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference and should our applicant be one of the YFA Washington, D.C., trip participants, our county Farm Bureau agrees to pay \$250 per person to participate in the 2018 YFA Washington, D.C., trip.

County President: _____ Date: _____

County: _____

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2017 Application

Note: Remember to write in first person narrative for questions I-V. Remember no state specific identifiers. Remember to use A1 and A2 when referring to applicants.

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

II. **AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

IV. 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.

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

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

V. **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?

VI. 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)