**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists**

**Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award**

**Background**

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award is designed as an opportunity for young farmers and agriculturists to earn recognition, while actively contributing and growing 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 Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award is an individual or couple who earns a majority of their income from off farm careers**. 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, 2023, 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 Young Leader Programs will coordinate the program at the state level.

Information about the Outstanding Agriculture Professional 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. 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 competition and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by December 31, 2023.
* If applying as a couple, both applicants must meet age requirements.
* 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.
* Previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award competitors and WFBF Outstanding Ag Professional state winners are not eligible to compete.
* 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.
* Current WFBF YFA Committee members are not eligible to compete unless they have reached their last year of eligibility

**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) 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 1-3. “A1”/”A2” may not be used for questions 1-3.
* 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.
* 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.**

**Final Four**

The Final Four contestants will be selected by **June 1, 2023**.

* Interviews will be held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on Saturday, December 2.
* Interviews may be up to 20 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 and the clarifying interview held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.

**Judging**

Application

Questions 1-3                        50 points

Agriculture Issues                  50 points

Goals                                    50 points

Farm Bureau Experience            25 points

Other Leadership Experience     25 points

**MAXIMUM POINTS                    200 points**

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau**

**Young Farmer and Agriculturists Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award**

**2023 Entry Form**

The applicant(s) should read this entry form and application carefully before completing any part of it. Online application must be completed on or before **4 p.m. April 15, 2023. The signature page is due to WFBF no later than May 15, 2023**

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

I (we) hereby certify the information included in the online application to be accurate and true statements. **WFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY**. 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 Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award. Should our applicant be one of the YFA Washington, D.C., trip participants, our county Farm Bureau agrees to pay $350 per person to participate in the YFA Washington, D.C., trip.

County President: Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau**

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award**

**Questions**

* 1. Explain your occupation (Approximately 2,000 characters)
  2. How do you feel your involvement within your company/organization contributes to the growth of the company/organization? (Approximately 3,000 characters)
  3. What does the applicant(s) do to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry? (May include things such as hosting farm tours, legislative visits, writing a blog, etc. – Approximately 3,000 characters)
  4. List three important issues that will impact agriculture withing the next five years and what you have done/will do to address those issues. (Approximately 5,000 characters)
  5. 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? What steps have been made to reach these goals? (Approximately 5,000 characters)
  6. Leadership Experience

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:*

1. *A1 – Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2015-2016)*

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.

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

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

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:*

1. *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:*

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