**2024 Farming for the Future Award**

**Background**

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) competition. Selection of the winning YFA competitor is based on his/her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. **The ideal candidate(s) for the Farming for the Future 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 6-8, 2024 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 Young Leader Programs will coordinate the program at the state level.

Information about the Farming for the Future Award applicant is requested on the entry form. ALL INFORMATION IS HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND IS DESTROYED AFTER JUDGING IS COMPLETED.

**Eligibility**

1. 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.
2. 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 December 31, 2024.
3. If applying as a couple, both applicants must meet the age requirements.
4. Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming, with the majority of his/her income coming from production agriculture.
5. Past state YFA Achievement Award winners, Farming for the Future Award and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
6. 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.
7. Current WFBF YFA Committee members are not eligible to compete unless they have reached their last year of eligibility.

**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 signature page.
* The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-7. Applicants must use “A1” and “A2” to denote each applicant for questions 8-10.
* 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, YFA 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.
* Only the named applicant(s) on the application are permitted into the interview.

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

**Application Scoring**

* 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 scoring the applications will be:

**Farm Operation & Growth:** 100 points

**Goals:** 50 points

**Agriculture Issues:** 50 points

**Farm Bureau Leadership Experience:** 25 points

**Other Leadership Experience:** 25 points

**MAXIMUM POINTS: 250**

* The application will be judged by a panel of three qualified industry judges. Each judge may award a maximum of 250 points.
* The Final Four contestants are chosen based on this system. **The final four contestants will be interviewed on Saturday, December 7 at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.**

**Deadline**

Online applications are due no later than **4:00pm** on **June 1, 2024** to be considered for state recognition and awards. The signed signature page must be received by WFBF no later than **July 1, 2024**.

**Final Four**

The Final Four contestants will be selected by **July 15, 2024**.

* Interviews will be held during the WFBF Annual Meeting & YFA Conference on Saturday, December 7.
* 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 & YFA Conference.

**2024 Farming for the Future Award**

***Application Form***

The applicant(s) should read this entry form and application carefully before completing any part of it. Online applications are due on or before **4:00pm** on **June 1, 2024**. The signature page is due to WFBF no later than **July 1, 2024.**

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and your spouse/spousal-equivalent, if married.

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 Farming for the Future competitive event and is eligible to be entered and considered for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation’s YFA Farming for the Future 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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***Application Questions***

Note: This application should reflect the operations of the immediate past tax accounting year. Remember to complete the application in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-7. Applicants must use “A1” and “A2” to denote each applicant for questions 8-10.

**FARM OPERATION & GROWTH**

1. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND - Family, education and personal interests. (Approximately 1,500 characters.)**
2. **Agriculture Status – Checkbox**
3. **Explain your farm operation. List specific enterprises and responsibilities. If you do not have any ownership of the farm, distinguish management decisions you are responsible for. (Approximately 2,000 characters.)**
4. **How do you feel your involvement contributes to the future growth and success of your farming operation? (Approximately 5,000 characters.)**
5. **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. (Approximately 5,000 characters.)**

**GOALS**

1. **What are your goals within the next five years for your farming operation? (Approximately 5,000 characters.)**

**AGRICULTURE ISSUES**

1. **List three important issues impacting production agriculture on your farm today and what are you or your farm doing to address these issues? (Approximately 5,000 characters.)**

**FARM BUREAU LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

1. **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 the COUNTY, STATE and NATIONAL LEVELS. (5,000 characters max)**

*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)*
2. *A1 & A2 – State Achievement Award Winners (2018)*

**OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

1. **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.***

***(2,500 characters max.)***

*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)*
2. **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.* (2,500 characters max.)**

*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)*