**2024 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 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 does not acquire 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 6-8, 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, 2024.
* 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 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.
* 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, 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.

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

**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:

**Personal Impact on Agriculture:** 50 points

**Goals:** 50 points

**Agriculture Issues:** 50 points

**Farm Bureau Leadership Experience:** 25 points

**Other Leadership Experience:** 25 points

**MAXIMUM POINTS: 200**

* The application will be judged by a panel of three qualified industry judges. Each judge may award a maximum of 200 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 Outstanding Agriculture Professional 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 Outstanding Agriculture Professional competitive event and is eligible to be entered and considered for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation’s 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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***Application Questions***

Note: Note: Remember to write in first person narrative for questions 1-3.

**PERSONAL IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

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/business? (Approximately 3,000 characters.)**
3. **3. What do you do to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry? (Approximately 3,000 characters.)**
May include things such as hosting farm tours, legislative visits, writing a blog, etc.

**GOALS**

1. **What goals do you have for the next five years related to your career, Farm Bureau involvement and participation with other organizations? What steps have been made to reach these goals? (Approximately 5,000 characters.)**

**AGRICULTURE ISSUES**

1. **List three important issues that will impact agriculture within the next five years and what you have done/will do to address those 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)*