**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation**

**Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

**Rules for 2021 ArFB Competition**

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**Background**

The Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Excellence in Agriculture Award competition is designed as an opportunity for young farmers and ranchers to earn recognition, while actively contributing and growing though 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 net income subject to normal production risk.**

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 similar legal rights under the law applicable to the state Farm Bureau organization. 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 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, 2022.
* 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.
* Applicant(s) may only compete in one national YF&R Competition per year.
* Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement 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.

**Entry Form & Application Guidelines**

* **All applications MUST be typed. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.**
* The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-5.
* 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.**

**Agreement**  All applicants MUST agree to the following, in the event they are named a finalist or the State winner(s):

* Three state finalists are required to attend the ArFB Officers & Leaders Conference in Hot Springs, AR on **July 19-20, 2021**.
* The state winner must complete the AFBF Excellence in Ag Application by October 31, 2021.
* The state winner must attend the AFBF Annual Convention in 2021 in Atlanta, GA , **January 7-12, 2022**. (expenses paid)

**Presentation Guidelines**

* The presentation will be an interactive, 25-minute presentation, in which the applicant(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of his/her/their entire application in narrative form with a panel of three judges.
  + 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 five (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.
* Verbal and presentation references to applicant(s) name, state and county will be allowed during the presentation.
* No props (including notes), sound or video of any kind will be allowed during the presentation.

**Judging**

* All applications will be judged prior to the presentations. Applicants will make their presentation to the same set of judges.
* Application Approx. %

Questions 2-4 150 points 37.5%

\*Ag Involvement, Impact on Ag and Issues Facing Ag

Goals 20 points 5%

Farm Bureau Experience 120 points 30%

Other Leadership Experience 80 points 20%

Application Form 30 points 7.5%

**MAXIMUM POINTS 400 points 100% (80% of Total Score)**

Presentation

Delivery of Presentation 40 points 40%

Content of Presentation 30 points 30%

Responses to Questions 30 points 30%

**MAXIMUM POINTS 100 points 100% (20% of Total Score)**

Deadline

Applications must be received in the state office by **MARCH 31, 2021**. **All materials, including financial documents, must be received by this date.** Please submit to [yfr@arfb.com](mailto:yfr@arfb.com). Presentations will take place at the Farm Bureau Center in Little Rock, **APRIL 24, 2021**.

**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation**

**Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

**2021 Entry Form**

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Please submit this form via email to [yfr@arfb.com](mailto:yfr@arfb.com).

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and your spouse, 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

Please provide one of the following for verification purposes ***(email with application)-***

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. AFBF 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.

Applicant(s) Signature(s): A1 A2

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**2021 Application**

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*Note: Remember to write in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-5*

1. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests) – ***Approximately 2,000 characters***
2. **AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT**
   1. Please explain the applicant(s) occupation – ***Approximately 2,500 characters***.

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

* 1. Please explain the applicant’s (applicants’) personal involvement in agriculture/agribusiness.

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

What does the applicant(s) do to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry? (May include things such as hosting farm tours, legislative visits or writing a blog.)

1. **ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE - *Approximately 5,000 characters***
   1. Agriculture faces important issues at the local, state, national and international levels. Explain three important issues that the industry needs to address in the next five years. Choose one issue from three of the four levels mentioned above.

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

B. Choose one of the issues in your response to 4A and discuss how you personally have addressed, or can address, that issue and work towards a resolution.

1. **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?

**6. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE *(from age 18 to current)- Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)***

*Note: This applies to both applicants, if applying together. Please indicate A1 and A2 when applicable.*

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. Please include years of involvement. *Example: A1 – Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2015-2016)*

**County Farm Bureau**

**State/American Farm Bureau**

1. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)*- Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)***
2. List other agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, 4-H, etc.). Please include organization, description and years of involvement.

*Example: A1 & A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2013 – present)*

1. 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 (i.e. civic/service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.) Please include organization, description and years of involvement.

*Example: A1 – Local Elementary School, Served as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President (2015-2017)*

1. Please explain any situations or circumstances that may have affected your leadership experiences. ***Approximately 250 characters***