

**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award**

**Rules for 2023 ArFB Competition**

**Purpose:**

Recognize young farmers/ranchers for their achievements in production agriculture and leadership.

**Background**

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competition. Selection of the winning YF&R competitor is based on his/her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. **The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.**

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

**Eligibility:**

**The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.**

- An applicant can be either an individual or a couple that is married. 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 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached his/her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday by Jan. 31, 2024.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her gross income coming from production agriculture. Applicant(s) must have at least three years of financial records showing that the majority of income came from production agriculture.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one national YF&R Competition per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse 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.

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 20-21, 2023**.
- The state winner must complete the AFBF Excellence in Ag Application by October 31, 2023.
- The state winner must attend the AFBF Annual Convention in **Salt Lake City, UT, January 19-24, 2024**. (Expenses paid)

## **Judging**

- Judging is based on the application sent to Arkansas Farm Bureau.
- A panel of three qualified judges will select the winners.

## **Scoring:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points</b>
1. Personal Background	10
2. Scope of Farm/Ranch	10
3. Growth & Achievements	20
4. Management Decisions	15
5. Goals & Planning	10
6. Overcoming Challenges	10
7. Financial Success Part 1: Debt-to-Asset Ratio and Profit	25
8. Financial Success Part 2: Off-Farm Income	10
9. Leadership Experience: Farm Bureau	30
10. Leadership Experience: Other Ag Organizations	10
11. Leadership Experience: Other	10
12. Leadership Growth and Development	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>170</b>

## **Deadline**

Applications must be received in the state office by **January 31, 2023**. **All materials must be received by this date.** Please submit to [yfr@arfb.com](mailto:yfr@arfb.com).

**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award  
2023 Entry Form**

Please submit this form via email to **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: A1: \_\_\_\_\_ A2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: A1: \_\_\_\_\_ A2: \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. ArFB 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.

Applicant(s) Signature(s): A1: \_\_\_\_\_ A2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award  
2023 Application**

**1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

a. Briefly tell us about yourself, your family, education, and personal interests. **Approximately 2,500 characters**

b. Please describe your farm/ranch including how you acquired it, acres owned and rented, years in operation, crops and/or livestock. **Approximately 2,500 characters**

**2. SCOPE OF YOUR FARM OR RANCH**

a. Explain the ownership structure of your farm/ranch and your vested interest. **Approximately 2,000 characters**

b. What percentage of the farm/ranch management decisions are you responsible for? Please break down for each enterprise, if applicable. **Approximately 1,250 characters - 10 lines**

<u>Enterprise</u>	<u>% Management Decisions</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### **3. GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Share the story of your farm growth since your first year of owning/managing your farm/ranch. List and describe any production efficiency growth you have achieved since your first year. Consider achievements such as weaning rates, feed conversion, yields per acre, diversification of crops, herd averages, etc.

**Approximately 3,000 characters**

#### 4. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

What type of management strategies do you use to make your operation thrive and ensure its success now and into the future? **Approximately 2,500 characters**

#### 5. GOALS & PLANNING

Moving forward, what short-term and long-term goals do you have for your farm/ranch? Explain how you plan to achieve these goals. **Approximately 2,500 characters**

## 6. OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

- a. Describe any major business challenges your farm/ranch has encountered and what you did to overcome them. (policy, financial, family, management, etc.) **Approximately 2,500 characters**

**7. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 1**

*NOTE: In considering financial situation, judges will consider the whole application and how the financials are connected to the history, goals and strategies of the farm/ranch. Financials are not to be evaluated independent of the other sections.*

- a. Using the grid below, please show your debt-to-asset ratio, including farm/ranch/personal debts and assets for each year requested:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Debt</b> (combined farm/ranch and personal debt)	<b>Total Assets</b> (combined farm/ranch and personal assets)	<b>Debt to Asset Ratio</b> (total debt divided by total assets)
First year (____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
Current year projection			

Please indicate whether the above reflects:

- the portion of the farm/ranch you own, as indicated in 2(a).
- OR
- the portion of the farm/ranch for which you make management decisions *if more than the amount you own*, as indicated in 2(b).

Use this space to clarify any discrepancies in debt to asset ratio between years , if needed: **Approximately 1,000 characters**



**9. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: FARM BUREAU (from age 18 to current)**

*Note: This applies to both applicants, if applying together.*

List Farm Bureau leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers. Please include years and level of involvement (county, state, national).

*Example: Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2018-2019) Approximately 2,500 characters per section*

**County Farm Bureau**

**State/American Farm Bureau**

**10. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS (from age 18 to current) –**

List other agricultural leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, adult roles in 4-H or FFA) *Example: 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2013 – present)*

**Approximately 2,500 characters**

**11. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: OTHER (from age 18 to current) -**

List other community and non-agricultural leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers (i.e. Chamber of Commerce, civic/service clubs, church, school, scouts, coaching, etc.) *Example: Local Elementary School, Served as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President (2018-2020)*

**Approximately 2,500 characters**

**12. LEADERSHIP GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Describe specific actions you have taken to better yourself as a leader or businessperson.

**Approximately 2,500 characters**