

**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award  
Rules for 2023 ArFB Competition**

**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 through 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. 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 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.

**Agreement**

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

- The 3 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.
- Values used in judging the applications will be:

**Scoring:**

Category	Points
1. Ag Involvement	15
2. Impact on Ag	15
3. Issues Facing Ag	20
4. Goals	10
5. Farm Bureau Experience	25
6. Other Leadership Experience	15
Total Points	100

**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 Excellence in Agriculture Award  
2023 Entry Form**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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. 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 \_\_\_\_\_



**3. 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.)

**4. ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE - *Approximately 5,000 characters***

Agriculture faces many issues in Arkansas. Explain one important issue that the Arkansas agriculture industry needs to address in the next five years. Describe how you personally have addressed or can address that issue and work towards a resolution.

**5. GOALS - *Approximately 5,000 characters***

What goals do you have for the next five years related to your career, Farm Bureau involvement and involvement with other organizations? What steps are you taking to reach those goals?

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

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

**County Farm Bureau**

**State/American Farm Bureau**

6. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)- Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)**

- 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. (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, 4-H, etc.). Please include organization, description and years of involvement.

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

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

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

- D. Please explain any situations or circumstances that may have affected your ability to gain leadership experience. **Approximately 250 characters**