

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award

Rules for 2018 LFBF Annual Convention 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 income subject to normal production risk.** It is recommended that the parish Farm Bureaus provide an expenses-paid trip to the LFBF State Convention held in 2018 in New Orleans, LA, June 21-24. Appropriate recognition will be given to all state competitors in attendance at the LFBF State Convention. The LFBF YF&R Committee and the LFBF Field Services Department will coordinate the program at the state level.

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 parish 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 Jan. 31, 2019.
- Applicant(s) must not have derived a majority of his/her income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in any of the past three years.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one state YF&R Competition per year.
- Applicant(s) may compete in either the Achievement Award or the Excellence in Agriculture Award, but not both in the same year.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of parish, state and/or American Farm Bureaus and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.
- Each parish may submit one entry to be considered for state recognition and must use the LFBF entry form and application.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her state or parish, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's parish beyond the entry form. Verbal and presentation references to applicants' name, state and parish will be allowed during your presentation for personalization of presentation.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-V. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VI.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms. LFBF, FB, and YF&R are acceptable to use throughout the application.

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

Judging

- All applications will be judged prior to the LFBF State Convention. Finalists will present to a panel of three judges at the State Convention.

<u>Application</u>		<u>Approx. %</u>
Questions II-IV	150 points	37.5%
Farm Bureau Experience	120 points	30%
Other Leadership Experience and Goals	100 points	25%
Application Form	<u>30 points</u>	<u>7.5%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 points	100% (80% of Total Score)

<u>Presentation</u>		
Delivery of Presentation	40 points	40%
Content of Presentation	30 points	30%
<u>Responses to Questions</u>	<u>30 points</u>	<u>30%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	100 points	100% (20% of Total Score)

Presentation Guidelines (Finalists Only)

- Excellence in Agriculture Finalist interviews will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans during the Annual Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Convention.
- The presentation will be an interactive, 25-minute presentation, in which the finalists have an opportunity to share the contents of his/her entire application in narrative form with a panel of three judges and the audience.
 - Finalists 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 finalists to determine how they use this time. Finalists will be notified by the time keeper when 10 minutes are remaining and again when 5 minutes are remaining. Time will be called and conclude the finalists 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. Contestants will not be allowed to use their own computer.
- Verbal and presentation references to finalists name, state and parish will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props (including notes), sound or video of any kind will be allowed during the presentation.
- Finalists are not allowed to view other presentations until after they have completed their own.
- **A digital version of the presentation must be submitted to the state office no later than May 1, 2018.**

Deadline

Applications must be **received** in the state office no later than **MARCH 1, 2018**. The digital version of this application can be found online at www.lafarmbureau.org. Each parish should take advantage of the opportunity for much valuable publicity and promotion in recognizing its parish winners on a local level.

Finalists

Applicants are able to apply for both the LFBF Discussion Meet and the LFBF Achievement Award or the LFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award. Those applicants who are selected as a finalist in either the LFBF Achievement Award or the LFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award will not be allowed to participate in the Discussion Meet and will have their application pulled; no replacement will be allowed.

Tentative Prize List

- \$7,500 toward the purchase of a 4-Wheel All-Terrain Single Rider Vehicle; Non-Utility/Non-Side by Side/Non-Multiuse Vehicle (Courtesy of Louisiana Land Bank)
- Trip to AFBF Convention in New Orleans, LA, January 2019 for winner(s) (Courtesy of LFBF)
- \$1,500 Equipment Rental (Courtesy of H&E Equipment Services)
- \$250 Visa Gift Card (Courtesy of Conquest Completion Services, LLC)
- \$250 Choice Hotel Gift Card (Courtesy of LFBF)
- \$250 Farm Bureau Bank Card (Courtesy of Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Companies)

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2018 Entry Form

Note: Please complete this form using the application online at www.lafarmbureau.org. All applications must be **typed** in the form provided. No handwritten applications will be accepted.

The applicant should carefully read through this application and entry form before filling out any part of it. The parish winner's application and entry form must be **received in the state office on or before March 1, 2018**, to the office of Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, PO Box 95004, Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004 or megang@lfbf.org.

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and your spouse/spousal-equivalent, if married. Please indicate "Applicant 1" (A1) and "Applicant 2" (A2) when applicable.

Applicant(s)*: A1 _____ A2 _____

* Will be used for recognition

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: A1 _____ A2 _____

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: (check which form you are providing)

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. **LFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A PARISH FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** LFBF 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 YF&R official contest rules and the decisions of the LFBF YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

Applicant(s) Signature(s): A1 _____ A2 _____

I hereby certify that the above named applicant(s) is the official state entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for LFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award for 2018.

Parish President Signature

Date

Parish

Membership #

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
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2018 Application

Note: Remember to write in first person narrative for questions I-V. Remember no parish specific identifiers.

I. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests) – *Approximately 2,000 characters*

II. **AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT**

A. Please explain the applicant(s) occupation – *Approximately 2,500 characters.*

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

B. Please explain the applicant's (applicants') personal involvement in agriculture/agribusiness.

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

What does the applicant(s) do to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry?

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

A. Please list and explain three important issues that agriculture needs to address in the next five years.

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

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

V. **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?

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

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

- 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: A1 – Elected President of the Parish Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2015-2016)

Parish Farm Bureau

State/American Farm Bureau

VI. **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: A1 & A2 – 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: A1 – Local Elementary School, Served as PTA President (2015-2016)