

# Texas Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Contest 2016 Rules and Awards

## **Background**

The Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Excellence in Agriculture Contest 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.**

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.*

## **Awards and Prizes**

### **All Applicants**

1. \$100 service voucher (sponsored by Chevrolet Certified Service)

### **Three Finalists**

1. Expenses paid for finalist and spouse (if joint application) to travel to TFB Headquarters in Waco to conduct the individual interview
2. Expense paid trip for finalist and spouse to annual meeting in San Antonio, December 2016 where state winner announced

### **Two Finalists**

1. Pair of Justin boots (sponsored by Justin Brands, Inc.)
2. Power tool (sponsored by Grainger)
3. \$500 cash (sponsored by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company)

### **State Winner**

1. Polaris Ranger UTV (sponsored by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company)
2. \$5,000 cash (sponsored by Farm Credit)
3. \$750 service voucher (sponsored by Chevrolet Certified Service)
4. Expense paid trip for the state winner and spouse to compete in the national Excellence in Agriculture Award during the 2017 AFBF Convention in Phoenix, AZ (provided by TFB)

**AFBF National Awards-** Winner receives - Choice of either a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado or 2017 GMC Sierra, paid registration to the AFBF FUSION Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Feb.10-13, 2017. Winner and two Finalists receive - a Case IH Farmall 50A, \$2,500 cash prize and \$500 in STIHL merchandise.

## **Eligibility**

- An applicant can be either an individual or a married couple that is a Texas Farm Bureau member in good standing. Applicant may choose to apply individually, rather than as a couple.
- Applicant(s) shall be a Texas Farm Bureau member(s) between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with his/her county Farm Bureau. The individual and/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, 2017.
- 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 national YF&R Competition per year.
- Applicant(s) may compete in either the Outstanding YF&R or the Excellence in Agriculture Award, but not both in the same year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Past Texas Outstanding YF&R winners are not eligible to compete.
- Past Texas YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureaus and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.

### **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 beyond the entry form.
- The 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.
- Do not bind or restructure this application. (Leave as is)

### **Judging Process**

- All applications will be evaluated using the Application Judging criteria below. A panel of three, well-qualified judges will select the three finalists from among applications submitted.
- The three finalist's applications are evaluated by another set of three, well qualified judges. The same judges will also conduct a 25 minute individual interview with each of the three finalists using the Presentation Judging criteria below. The winner is then determined based on both the Application and Presentation criteria scoring.

#### **Application Judging**

		<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	30 points	7.5%
<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>400 points</b>	<b>100% (80% of Total Score)</b>

#### **Presentation Judging**

Delivery of Presentation	40 points	40%
Content of Presentation	30 points	30%
Responses to Questions	30 points	30%
<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>100% (20% of Total Score)</b>

### **Presentation Guidelines for Three Finalists**

- The presentation will be an interactive, 25-minute presentation, in which the applicant(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of his/her 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 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. The applicant(s) needs to submit their presentation on a USB flash drive prior to their 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 applicant(s) name and county will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props (including notes), sound or video will be allowed during the presentation.
- Applicants are not allowed to view other presentations.

### **Photographs – All Applicants**

Please enclose three color prints, including one of your family.

### **Deadline**

Application must be postmarked **no later than August 31, 2016**. Mail to:

Texas Farm Bureau  
ATTN: YF&R Coordinator  
P.O. Box 2689  
Waco, TX 76702-2689.

The application and information is also available at <http://www.texasfarmbureau.org/yfr/>

# Texas Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Award 2016 Entry Form

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and/or your spouse, if married. Please indicate "Applicant 1" (A1) and "Applicant 2" (A2) when responding to question VI. Applications should be postmarked no later than August 31, 2016. Mail to Texas Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 2689, Waco, TX 76702-2689 – Attention: YF&R Coordinator. No faxes please! This application is also available on our website at <http://www.texasfarmbureau.org/yfr/>

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

A. 3-line description of your operation (include uniqueness) for use during Awards & Recognition Program.

B. Please elaborate on the above description (5 to 8 lines) to be used for display purposes throughout the TFB Annual Meeting.

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. TFB 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 TFB YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

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

I hereby certify that the above named applicant(s) is an entry from \_\_\_\_\_ and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for TFB's Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Contest for 2016.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Farm Bureau President

**Texas Farm Bureau  
Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Award**

**2016 Application**

*Note: Remember to write in first person narrative for questions I-V. Remember no county specific or personal identifiers.*

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

## II. AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT

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

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

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)**

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 (continued)**

- A. 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.)

Organization	Description	Years

- B. 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.)

Organization	Description	Years