

**Texas Farm Bureau
Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest
2018 Rules and Awards**

BACKGROUND

Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) annually conducts an Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Contest. Selection of the winning Outstanding YF&R competitor is based on his/her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. Participation in this program with individual recognition and the resulting publicity will help build the individual and the organization. The ideal candidate(s) for the Outstanding YF&R Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her income subject to normal production risks. *All information is handled in strict confidence.*

PRIZES AND AWARDS

THREE FINALISTS

1. Expense paid trip for finalist and spouse to the Texas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, December 2018 where state winners are announced.

TWO FINALISTS

1. \$500 cash (sponsored by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company).

STATE WINNER

1. $\frac{3}{4}$ ton diesel, 4-door, 4-wheel drive pickup (sponsored by Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies).
 2. \$5,000 cash (sponsored by Farm Credit).
 3. Expense paid trip for the state winner and spouse to compete in the American Farm Bureau Federation Achievement Award during the 2019 AFBF Convention in New Orleans, LA (provided by Texas Farm Bureau).
- *Please check TFB Website for additions/updates to prize packages*

AFBF NATIONAL AWARDS

- Prizes for the AFBF Achievement Award winner were unavailable at the time of publication.

ELIGIBILITY

- An applicant can be either an individual or a couple that is married and a current member of Texas Farm Bureau. Married applicants will apply as a couple if both spouses meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Applicant(s) shall be Texas 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, 2019.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her income coming from production agriculture.
- Applicant(s) may compete in the Excellence in Agriculture or the Outstanding YF&R, but not both.
- Each applicant must use the Texas Farm Bureau online form and application located: <https://my.texasfarmbureau.org/>.
- There is no limit on the number of entries from each county.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Past state Outstanding YF&R Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureau and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.

ENTRY FORM & APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Application must not contain any information that would identify the applicant(s) including, applicant(s) name, the name of his/her city or county, schools or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant beyond the biographical information.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-VI. Applicants must use A1 and A2 to denote each applicant.
- Abbreviations/Acronyms may only be used if the spelled out form of the word(s) are used in the first instance, with abbreviations/acronyms listed following in parenthesis, and then use the abbreviation/acronym only, for later reference in the application.

EXP: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

JUDGING PROCESS

The entry form and application of each entry will be coded upon receipt by Texas Farm Bureau. The applicant's name and county will not be revealed to the judges until judging is completed. Values used in judging at all levels will be:

- Farm Operation and Growth: 70 points
- How Operation Acquired: 60 points
- Farm Bureau Leadership: 40 points
- Other Leadership: 30 points *(AGRICULTURE = 15 POINTS, COMMUNITY = 10 POINTS, GOALS = 5 POINTS)*
- **Total: 200 points**

DISTRICT LEVEL JUDGING

- A panel of three qualified judges will select each District winner. The District winners will be judged by an additional panel of three qualified judges who will review the written applications and determine the three finalists.

FINAL ROUND JUDGING (Three Finalists)

- An additional panel of three qualified judges will review the applications and visit the top 3 finalists on their farm and/or ranch. From this process, the overall winner will be determined.
- The on-farm/ranch interviews will be up to 3 hours in length.
- During the visit/interview process, only the named applicant(s) on the entry form are permitted.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- Applicant may provide up to four (4) pictures of the operation, and one (1) family photo. The 4 operation pictures should not identify the applicant, or his/her city or county.
- Pictures will need to be 1200 pixels wide x 1600 pixels tall (4" X 6", 300 dpi) in jpg file format.

DEADLINE

- Online application must be submitted by selecting the green "submit and finish" button on the online application no later than August 1, 2018. Once the application has been submitted you cannot edit your application.

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

- Additional information regarding this contest is also available at: <http://bit.ly/TFB-YFR>

**Texas Farm Bureau
Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest
2018 Application Questions**

In order to help you prepare for the online application, these are the questions you need to be prepared to answer.

- Please submit application via online application process only. No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted. The entry form and application must be submitted via the online MyTFB portal on or before 11:59 p.m. August 1, 2018. 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).
- Note: This application should reflect the operations of the immediate past tax accounting year. Remember to complete the application using first-person narration for questions I-VI, and using A1 and A2 for question VII.
- A. 3-line description of your operation (include uniqueness) for use during Awards & Recognition Program **(500 CHARACTER LIMIT)**
- B. Please elaborate on the above description (5 to 8 lines) to be used for display purposes throughout the TFB Annual Meeting. **(1000 CHARACTER LIMIT)**
- By clicking here, I (We) Accept and Acknowledge, that I (we) have read the Rules and Eligibility page and the Online Application Submission Instruction page for the 2018 Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest. I (We) further acknowledge that I (we) have read, understand, and accept each requirement and eligibility in its entirety.

I. PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- A. Personal Background - (FAMILY, EDUCATION AND PERSONAL INTERESTS) **(MAX OF 1500 CHARACTERS)**

II. AGRICULTURAL STATUS

- A. a. What is your operator status? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)
 Owner Renter Manager
- b. Check all that apply to your operation. If checked - please explain in question A3.
 Partnership Corporation Joint Venture Other
- c. Operation Status Explanation: **(MAX OF 250 CHARACTERS)**
- B. Please indicate and justify the percentage of contribution in the operation by the applicant(s) in the following areas:
a - Total % personal capital involved ____
b. Total % management/decision making ____
- C. Please list specific responsibilities of the applicant(s) **(MAX OF 900 CHARACTERS)**
- D. a. Total acres operated ____
b. Acres owned ____

III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION

- A. List Major Crops ***PLEASE INDICATE IF IRRIGATED*

List Major Crops	First Year	No. of Acres	Current Yr – No. of Acres	Current Yr – Yield per Acre
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- B. Under "Volume of Production," indicate number of head, pounds, dozen or other appropriate measure of volume. **(MAX OF 1,100 CHARACTERS PER SECTION)**

Enterprise	First Year	1st Yr. Volume of Production	Current Yr. Volume of Production
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- C. Please be creative in explaining the operation if the agricultural enterprise does not fit within Sections A and B **(MAX OF 2,000 CHARACTERS)**
- D. How was the agricultural operation acquired? Indicate, in narrative form, what portion of the operation was purchased or personally earned by the applicant(s), acquired through inheritance, or acquired through partnership conversion, rental, or by a contract or management arrangement. **(MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)**
- E. List other agricultural or related business enterprises, describing the size, relationship and importance to the total operation (*I.E., CUSTOM HARVESTING, PROCESSING, AG TOURISM, ETC.*). **(MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)**
- F. Describe significant changes, expansion or improvement in management and marketing practices, and the acquisition of agricultural machinery, equipment and irrigation systems, and/or buildings built or devised by the applicant(s) since his/her involvement in the operation began. **(MAX 5,000 CHARACTERS)**

IV. APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- A. Indicate other sources of income and property acquisition during the years the applicant(s) has been farming, such as off-farm employment, spouse/spousal-equivalent's income, gifts, prizes and/or inheritances. **(MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)**
- B. Discuss any unusual situations/problems that may have affected the operation that the applicant(s) has overcome and solved. **(MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)**

V. PROGRESS OF OPERATION

- A. List specific goals or objectives and achievements gained for production efficiency developed by the applicant(s) in improving the quality of the farming program such as: weight of pigs at 56 days, ratio of pounds of feed to pounds of gain, cost per 100 pounds of gain, pounds of butterfat per cow or yield per acre, efficient land use, or acreage increases. **(MAX OF 5,000 CHARACTERS)**

Goals in First Year	Current Achievement	Future Goals
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- B. Describe ways in which the applicant(s) measures and evaluates the management of his/her farming operation. **(MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)**
- C. Indicate plans the applicant(s) has for future expansion, improvements or changes in the agricultural operation. **(MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)**

VI. GOALS

- A. What goals does the applicant(s) have for the next five years related to his/her career, Farm Bureau involvement and involvement in other organizations? **(MAX OF 5,000 CHARACTERS)**

VII. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (18 yrs. of age and above)

- A. (County) 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 (2016-2017)*

County Farm Bureau:

Applicant (A1, A2)	Leadership Role	Years of Involvement
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- B. (State) 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 TO SERVE ON _____ COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE/NATIONAL FARM BUREAU (2016-2017)*

State/American Farm Bureau:

Applicant (A1, A2)	Leadership Role	Years of Involvement
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- C. 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 AND A2 – 4-H, SERVES AS A 4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB*

Applicant (A1, A2)	Organization	Description	Years
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- D. 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*

Applicant (A1, A2)	Organization	Description	Years
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- I (We) understand that if I am selected as a finalist in the 2018 Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest, I will be required to submit a W-9 and I will receive a 1099 for the value of any awards.
- I (We) understand that if I (we) are selected as the 2018 Outstanding YF&R Contest winner, I (we) will be required to complete a financial sheet for the AFBF Achievement Award Application. This sheet must be notarized.
- I (We) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. TEXAS FARM BUREAU DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY. Texas Farm Bureau 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. 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 Texas Farm Bureau YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

The County Farm Bureau President and office in which my Farm Bureau membership is held will receive notification of this application. Upon request, the application will be submitted to them.

- Applicant(s) may provide up to four (4) pictures of the operation, and one (1) family photo.
 - o The 4 operation pictures should **not identify** the **applicant(s)**, or his/her **city** or **county**.
 - o Pictures will need to be 1200 pixels wide x 1600 pixels tall (4" x 6", 300 dpi) in jpg file format.