

**Texas Farm Bureau
Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Contest
2018 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 YF&R Excellence in Agriculture applicant is requested on the entry form.
All information is handled in strict confidence.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

THREE FINALISTS

1. Expenses paid for finalist and spouse (if joint application) to travel to TFB Headquarters in Waco to conduct the individual interview/presentation.
2. Expense paid trip for finalist and spouse to annual meeting in Corpus Christi, TX, December 1-2, 2018 where they will provide their presentation to an open audience and the state winner will be announced. (This Annual Meeting presentation does not count towards the 500 points in the judging process.)

TWO FINALISTS

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

STATE WINNER

1. UTV (sponsored by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company)
2. \$5,000 cash (sponsored by Farm Credit)
3. Expense paid trip for the state winner and spouse to compete in the national Excellence in Agriculture Award during the 2019 AFBF Convention in New Orleans, LA (provided by TFB)

AFBF NATIONAL AWARDS

Prizes for the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award winner were unavailable at time of publication.

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 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 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

- 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 for all of question VII.
- 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

- 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 three finalists will present a 25-minute interactive presentation to a separate set of 3, well-qualified judges, using the presentation judging criteria below. The winner is then determined based on both the Application and Presentation criteria scoring.

APPLICATION JUDGING: Approx. %

Questions II-IV	150 points	37.5%
Farm Bureau Experience	120 points	30%
Other Leadership Experience and Goals	100 points	25%
Maximum Points	400 points	100% (80% of Total Score)

PRESENTATION JUDGING

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

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

Applicant may provide up to three (3) color pictures, including one of your family. Color headshot will need to be 1200 pixels wide x 1600 pixels tall (4" x 6", 300 dpi) in jpg file format.

DEADLINE

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.**

The application and information is also available at: <http://bit.ly/TFB-YFR>

**Texas Farm Bureau
Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture 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 this form via the online application process. No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted. The entry form and application must be submitted via the online 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)

Applicant 1 (A1) and Applicant 2 (A2) -- if applicable

- Education/Degree
- Short Courses/Specialized Study

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

A. Personal Background - (FAMILY, EDUCATION AND PERSONAL INTERESTS) - (MAX OF 2,000 CHARACTERS)

AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT

- A. Please explain the applicant(s) occupation - (MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)
 B. Please explain the applicant(s) personal involvement in agriculture/agribusiness.
 - (MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

A. What does the applicant(s) do to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry?
 - (MAX OF 2,500 CHARACTERS)

ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE

- A. Please list and explain three important issues that agriculture needs to address in the next five years. - (MAX OF 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. - (MAX OF 5,000 CHARACTERS)

GOALS

A. 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?- (MAX OF 5,000 CHARACTERS)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (18 yrs. of age & above)

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. (Section A1 - County Farm Bureau)

*EXAMPLE: A1 – ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2016-2017)
 -- APPROXIMATELY 2,500 CHARACTERS PER SECTION (20 LINES)*

APPLICANT (A1, A2)	LEADERSHIP ROLE / AWARD	COMMITTEE / BOARD / OFFICE	YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT
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B. 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. (*Section A2 - State/American Farm Bureau*)

EXAMPLE: A1 – SERVED AS CHAIR OF THE STATE FARM BUREAU YF&R ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2016-2017)
 -- APPROXIMATELY 2,500 CHARACTERS PER SECTION (20 LINES)

APPLICANT (A1, A2)	LEADERSHIP ROLE / AWARD	COMMITTEE / BOARD / OFFICE	YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT
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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. (*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)
 -- APPROXIMATELY 2,500 CHARACTERS PER SECTION (20 LINES)

APPLICANT (A1, A2)	LEADERSHIP ROLE / AWARD	ORGANIZATION / COMMITTEE / BOARD	YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT
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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 (*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 (2016-2017)
 -- APPROXIMATELY 2,500 CHARACTERS PER SECTION (20 LINES)

APPLICANT (A1, A2)	LEADERSHIP ROLE / AWARD	ORGANIZATION / COMMITTEE / BOARD	YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT
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- *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 may attach up to three (3) color pictures, including one of your family. Color headshot will need to be 1200 pixels wide x 1600 pixels tall (4" x 6", 300 dpi) in jpg file format.*
- I understand that if I am selected as a finalist in the 2018 Excellence in Agriculture Contest, I will be required to submit a W-9 and I will receive a 1099 for the value of any awards.
- 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.