

2023 TEXAS FARM BUREAU - EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE CONTEST APPLICATION QUESTIONS

The information provided below represents the Excellence in Agriculture Contest Rules, Eligibility and questions that are found on the official online application that must be completed through the MyTFB online membership portal. No emailed or mailed entry forms will be accepted.

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 gross 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 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 Texas Farm Bureau organization. Applicants 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-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 the by the completion of the competition. Competitors qualify at the time the national application is submitted and the completion of the competition is the day awards are given out (Monday, January 22, 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 and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Applicant(s) may compete in either the Outstanding YF&R or the Excellence in Agriculture Award, but not both in the same year.
- Past Texas Outstanding YF&R winners are not eligible to compete.
- Past Texas YF&R Excellence Agriculture 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. 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.) Past employees and interns who were responsible for implementing any of the YF&R Competitive Events since January 1, 2018, at the state or national level are ineligible.

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ENTRY FORM & APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her city, schools, state, county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant beyond the entry form. The written versions of the application have a search feature to locate identifiers. Verbal and presentation reference to applicant's name state and county 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 1-5.
- Applicants must use "A1" / "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question 6.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms, unless it has been spelled out once with the abbreviation in parentheses behind it. Ex: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- AFBF, FB, and YF&R are acceptable to use throughout the application.
- All applications must be submitted online. No emailed or mailed entry forms will be accepted.
- It will be up to the judges' discretion to deduct points if applicants include activities before they were 18.
- NOTE: DISREGARD OF THE GUIDELINES WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION.

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. Applicants will be notified by the timekeeper when 10 minutes are remaining and again when five minutes are remaining. Each judge will be prepared to ask one question. At 25 minutes, time will be called and the applicant's time in front of the judges will conclude even if judges have not been able to ask their questions. It will be up to the applicant(s) to determine how to use this time. If the answers to the judges' questions are complete before time is called, the room moderator will call time.
- 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. Once the presentation has been downloaded onto the laptop, it cannot be changed. 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 of any kind will be allowed during the presentation.
- Applicants are not allowed to view other presentations until after they have completed their own.

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JUDGING PROCESS

- All applications will be evaluated using the application judging criteria below.
- All judges will use the application rubric to score the applications.
- A panel of three, well-qualified judges will select the three finalists from among applications submitted.
- The three finalist 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.

The following breakdown of points will be used for the application:

APPLICATION		Approx. %
Questions 2-4	180 points	45.0%
*Ag Involvement, Impact on Ag and Issues Facing Ag Goals	40 points	10.0%
Farm Bureau Experience	90 points	22.5%
Other Leadership Experience	80 points	20.0%
Application Form	10 points	2.5%
* Writing should be clear, descriptive and free of grammatical errors		
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 points	100% (80% of Total Score)
PRESENTATION		
Delivery of Presentation	40 points	40.0%
Content of Presentation	30 points	30.0%
Response to Questions	30 points	30.0%
MAXIMUM POINTS	100 points	100.0% (20% of Total Score)

**The above breakdowns are not the rubric. Please refer to the separate rubric documents for all scoring criteria.

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AWARDS AND PRIZES

TEXAS FARM BUREAU EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE CONTEST AWARDS PACKAGE

The Excellence in Agriculture Contest awards package will be published at a later date.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU AWARDS PACKAGE

The Excellence in Agriculture Contest awards package will be published at a later date.

PHOTOGRAPHS – ALL APPLICANTS

Applicant may provide up to three (3) color pictures, including one of your family. Please follow the recommended guidelines provided on the YF&R website.

Color Headshot will need to be 1200 pixels wide x 1600 pixels tall (4 X 6, 300 dpi) in jpg format.

DEADLINE

The application must be submitted by selecting the green 'submit and finish' button on the online application no later than **11:59 pm, August 4, 2023**. Once the application has been submitted, you cannot edit your application.

View contest background, eligibility, guidelines and online application instructions at <http://bit.ly/TFB-YFR>

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 2023 Excellence in Agriculture Contest. I (We) further acknowledge that I (We) have read, understand, and accept each requirement and eligibility in its entirety.

☐ I (We) Agree

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 4, 2023. 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)

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

CONTACT INFORMATION

THIS APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED BY:

- ☐ An Individual
☐ A Couple

FULL NAME APPLICANT #1 (A1)

First	Middle	Last	Suffix

FULL NAME APPLICANT #2 (A2) - (IF APPLICABLE)

First	Middle	Last	Suffix

MAILING ADDRESS

Address	City	State	Zip

PHYSICAL ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN MAILING ADDRESS)

Phy_Address	Phy_City	Phy_Zip

CELL PHONE:

A1 - Cell Phone		A2 - Cell Phone	
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EMAIL

A1 - Email		A2 - Email	
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DATE OF BIRTH

A1 - Date of Birth		A2 - Date of Birth	
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EDUCATION/DEGREE

A1 - Education/Degree:		A2 - Education/Degree	
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Note: Remember to write in first-person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-5.
Remember no state/ county/city specific identifiers.

1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND (Family, education and personal interests) – Approximately 2,000 characters

2. AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT

2a. Please explain the applicant(s) occupation. (Max of 2,500 characters)

2b. Please explain the applicant(s) personal involvement in agriculture/agribusiness. (Max of 2,500 characters)

3. IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3a. Clearly describe the efforts the applicant(s) has taken to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry. Examples may include things such as hosting farm tours, legislative visits, writing a blog, etc. (Max of 5,000 characters)

4. ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE

4a. Agriculture faces important issues at the local, state, national and international levels. Explain three important issues that the industry needs to address in the next five years. Choose one issue from three of the four levels mentioned above. For example, an applicant might select ag literacy as a local issue, mental health as a state issue and rural broadband as a national issue. (Max of 5,000 characters)

4b. Choose one of the issues in your response to 4A and discuss how you personally have addressed, or can address, that issue and work towards a resolution. (Max of 5,000 characters)

5. GOALS

5a. 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? What steps have been made to reach these goals? (Max of 5,000 characters)

6. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (from age 18 to current) Approximately 2,500 characters per section
Note: This applies to both applicants if applying together. Please indicate A1 for Applicant #1 and A2 for Applicant #2 when applicable.

6a-1. List county 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 (2020-2021)

Applicant (A1, A2)	Leadership Role / Award	Committee / Board / Office	Years of Involvement

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6a-2. List State Farm Bureau/AFBF 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 – Served as Chair of the State Farm Bureau YF&R Advisory Committee (2016-2017)

Applicant (A1, A2)	Leadership Role / Award	Committee / Board / Office	Years of Involvement

6b. 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 (2019 – present)

Applicant (A1, A2)	Leadership Role / Award	Organization	Committee Board	Years of Involvement

6c. 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 (2018-2021)

Applicant (A1, A2)	Leadership Role / Award	Organization	Committee Board	Years of Involvement

If you had any situations or circumstances that may affect your leadership experiences, please use this space to explain. If you don't have any situations or circumstances, please leave blank. (Max 250 Characters) NOTE: There are no points associated to this section and can be left blank.

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I understand that if I am selected as a finalist in the 2023 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) Agree

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. Please follow the recommended guidelines provided on the YF&R website.

Attachment Count: 3

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.

☐ I (We) Agree

How did you hear about this contest?

- ☐ COUNTY FARM BUREAU
- ☐ TEXAS FARM BUREAU STAFF
- ☐ SOCIAL MEDIA POST
- ☐ PRINT PRODUCTION / ADVERTISEMENT
- ☐ YF&R MEETING
- ☐ YF&R ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- ☐ PREVIOUSLY APPLIED
- ☐ OTHER