

**2023 Texas Farm Bureau
Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest
2023 RULES & APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

PURPOSE

Recognize young farmers/ranchers for their achievements in production agriculture and leadership.

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 net income subject to normal production risks.

The information below is an example of the information needed for the official online application. All Applications MUST be submitted online, no emailed or mailed applications will be accepted. All information is handled in strict confidence.

ELIGIBILITY

An applicant can be either an individual or a couple that is married or has similar legal rights under the law. Applicant(s) may choose to apply individually, rather than as a couple.

- Applicant(s) must be 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 a Farm Bureau member(s) between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with his/her county 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 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 be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her net 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: <http://bit.ly/TFB-YFR>.
- 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 or agents of county, state and/or the American Farm Bureau organizations 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.

ENTRY FORM & APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her state or county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's city/county beyond the entry form. The written versions of the application have a search feature to locate any identifiers.
 - The entry form and application must be completed in first-person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-8 and 12. 'A1' / 'A2' may not be used for questions 1-8. Applicants must use 'A1' / 'A2' to denote each applicant for all of questions 9-11.
 - Do not use abbreviations or acronyms, unless it has been spelled out once with the abbreviation in parentheses behind it. (For example, United States Department of Education (USDE). AFBF, FB, and YF&R are acceptable to use throughout the application.
 - This 2023 Rules, Awards & Questions document is an example of the information needed for the official online application.
 - It will be up to the judges' discretion to deduct points if applicants include activities before they were 18.
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**2023 Texas Farm Bureau
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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 the 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

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

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

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.

CATEGORY	POINTS
Personal Background	10
Scope of Farm/Ranch	15
Growth & Achievements	25
Management Decisions	15
Goals & Planning	10
Overcoming Challenges	10
Financial Success Part 1	25
Financial Success Part 2	15
Leadership Experience: Farm Bureau	30
Leadership Experience: Other Ag Organizations	10
Leadership Experience: Other	10
Leadership Growth & Development	10
Total Points:	185

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.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

TFB STATE AWARDS

The Outstanding YF&R Contest awards package will be published at a later date.

AFBF NATIONAL AWARDS

The AFBF Achievement Award Contest prize package will be published at a later date.

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

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 1-8 and 12 and using A1 and A2 for questions 9-11.

**2023 Texas Farm Bureau
Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest
2023 RULES & APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

Please submit this form via the online application process. No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted. The online entry form and application must be submitted via the online portal on or before **11:59 p.m. Aug. 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) on questions 9-11.

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

Address	City	State	Zip

Preferred Cell Phone

A1 - Cell Phone	A2 - Cell Phone

Preferred Email

A1 - Email	A2 - Email

Date of Birth

DOB - Applicant #1 (A1)	DOB - Applicant #2 (A2)

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

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

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 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 (We) Agree

Note: All information submitted is regarded as confidential, and upon completion of judging, all applications are destroyed.

**2023 Texas Farm Bureau
Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest
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1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND

1 a.) Briefly tell us about yourself, your family, education, and personal interests. (Max of 2,000 characters)

1 b.) Please describe your farm/ranch including how you acquired it, acres owned and rented, years in operations, crops and livestock. (Max of 2,000 characters)

1 c.) List any other related business enterprises and their relationship to/importance in the total farm/ranch. (Max of 1,500 characters)

1 d.) Tell us about how you advocate for agriculture. (Max of 1,500 characters)

2. SCOPE OF YOUR FARM OR RANCH

2 a.) Explain the ownership structure of your farm/ranch and your vested interest. Please include detail regarding all enterprises in your explanation, if applicable. (Max of 2,000 characters)

2 b.) What percentage of the farm/ranch management decisions are you responsible for? Please break down for each enterprise, if applicable. (Approximately 1,250 characters - 10 lines)

Enterprise	% Management Decisions

2 c.) Please add any additional information that helps explain the previous two responses, if needed. (Max 1,000 characters)

2 d.) Describe your role in the operation. Explain specifically your duties and decision-making responsibilities. (Max of 2,000 characters)

3. GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENTS

3 a.) Please tell the story of your farm growth since your first year of owning/managing your farm/ranch. Where were you then and where are you now? Use specific examples to show how your operation has grown and highlight your contributions to the success of the operation over time. (Max 3,000 characters)

3 b.) List and describe any production efficiency growth you have achieved since your first year of owning/managing your farm/ranch. (Max 2,500 characters)

4. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

4 a.) Please explain how your understanding of the market has led you to create strategies that make your operation thrive and ensure its success now and into the future. Discuss up to two impactful strategic or management decisions you have made on your farm/ranch, why you made them, and the changes that resulted from implementing those decisions. (Max 3,500 characters)

**2023 Texas Farm Bureau
Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest
2023 RULES & APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

5. GOALS AND PLANNING

5 a.) Moving forward, what short-term and long-term goals do you have for your farm/ranch? Explain how you plan to achieve these goals. (Max 2,500 characters)

6. RESILIENCY

6 a.) Describe any major business challenges your farm/ranch has encountered and what you did to overcome them. (i.e., policy, financial, family, management, etc.) (Max 1,500 characters)

6 b.) Describe the transition or succession plan(s) you have for your farm/ranch. If you do not have either, please explain. (Max 2,000 characters)

7. FINANCIAL SUCCESS (Part 1)

7 a.) What ratios or analysis do you use to evaluate the financial success of your farm/ranch? Give details and examples. (Max 2,500 characters)

7 b.) Where do you see your greatest financial strength and weaknesses in your farm/ranch business? (Max 2,500 characters)

7 c.) Describe your record-keeping system and any advisors or supporting team members you rely on for evaluating the financial strength of your operation. (Max 2,500 characters)

8. FINANCIAL SUCCESS (Part 2)

8 a.) Do you have any additional farm/ranch business income such as supporting agri-businesses? If so, how is that income used? (Max 1,000 characters)

8 b.) Is any off-farm income earned by you or your spouse and how is that income used? (Max 1,000 characters)

8 c.) What additional income, if any, from inheritances, winnings, etc. did the applicant(s) accept and how is/was it used? (Max 1,000 characters)

9. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE Farm Bureau (age 18 to current)

Note: This applies to both applicants, if applying together. Please indicate A1 for Applicant #1 and A2 for Applicant #2.

9 a-1.) (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 and level of involvement. Example: A1 – Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2018-2019) County Farm Bureau

Applicant (A1, A2)	Leadership Role	Years of Involvement

**2023 Texas Farm Bureau
Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Contest
2023 RULES & APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

9 a-2.) (Texas/American Farm Bureau) 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 and level of involvement. Example: A1 – Elected to serve on ____ Committee for the State/National Farm Bureau (2018-2019) Texas/American Farm Bureau

Applicant (A1, A2)	Leadership Role	Years of Involvement

10. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE Other Agricultural Organizations (from age 18 to current)

10 a.) List other agricultural leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, adult roles in 4-H or FFA) 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

11. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE Other (from age 18 to current)

List other community and non-agricultural leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers. (i.e. Chamber of Commerce, civic/service clubs, church, school, scouts, coaching, other 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

12. LEADERSHIP GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

12 a.) Describe your most impactful leadership experience and any actions you have taken to better yourself as a leader or businessperson. (Max 2,500 characters)

12 b.) Describe your goals for leadership growth and development. (Max 2,500 characters)

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2023 RULES & APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

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.

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

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

I (We) understand that if I (we) are selected as the 2023 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) Agree

Applicant(s) may provide up to four (4) pictures of the operation, and one (1) family photo. The 4 operation pictures should not identify the applicant(s), 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. Attachment Count: 5

How did you hear about this contest?

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