

# 2026 TFB Outstanding YF&R Contest Application

## **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 gross income subject to normal production risks.**

***All information provided within this application is handled in strict confidence.***

## **2026 RULES & AWARDS - TEXAS FARM BUREAU COMPETITION**

### **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 the 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 **January 8, 2027**.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her gross income coming from production agriculture.
- Applicant(s) may compete in the Excellence in Agriculture or the Outstanding YF&R, but not both.
- There is no limit on the number of entries from each county.
- Each applicant must use the Texas Farm Bureau online form and application located: [texasfarmbureau.org/YFR](http://texasfarmbureau.org/YFR)
- 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, 2021, at the state or national level are ineligible.

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## **ENTRY FORM & APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

- Do not use the 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 the 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 the 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 Agriculture (USDA). AFBF, FB, and YF&R are acceptable to use throughout the application.
- It will be up to the discretion to deduct points if applicants include activities before, they were 18.

## **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**

The application must be submitted by selecting the green 'Submit and Finish' button on the online application **no later than 11:59 p.m., May 15, 2026**. Once the application has been submitted you cannot edit your application.

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

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## **JUDGING PROCESS**

- The entry form and application of each entry will be coded upon receipt by the Texas Farm Bureau.
- The applicant's name and county will not be revealed to the judges until judging is completed.
  - PLEASE **DO NOT** USE APPLICANT(s) **NAME | STATE | COUNTY | CITY |**  
**OR ANY NAMES THAT MAY BRING ABOUT THE RECOGNITION OR**  
**IDENTIFICATION** OF THE APPLICANT(s) IDENTIFICATION AFTER SECTION #1 WITHIN THE APPLICATION.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Personal Background	10
Scope of Farm/Ranch	15
Growth & Achievements	25
Management Decisions	15
Goals & Planning	10
Resiliency	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	<u>10</u>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>185</b>

## **ROUND 1 JUDGING**

A panel of three qualified judges will review the written applications and will rank each. Judges' scores will be tallied to determine the top eight applications. The top three ranked applications will be selected as the top three finalists.

## **FINAL ROUND JUDGING (Three Finalists)**

An additional panel of three qualified judges will review the top three finalist applications and will visit each finalist on their farm and/or ranch. From this process, the overall winner will be determined.

The on-farm/ranch interviews will be up to three hours in length.

During the visit/interview process, only the named applicant(s) on the entry form are permitted.

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## **PRIZES AND AWARDS**

The Outstanding YF&R Contest recognizes young farmers and ranchers who are actively engaged in farming and ranching.

The top eight finalists will be selected from across all TFB districts. Of those top eight, three state finalists are selected. A panel of judges will visit each of the three finalists' farm or ranch to determine the overall winner.

## **PRIZES**

### ***Winner:***

- \$60,000 Member Dealer Voucher\*
- Engraved crystal award
- Expense-paid trips to TFB Annual Meeting and AFBF Annual Convention

### ***Two State Finalists:***

- \$500 cash award
- Engraved acrylic award
- Expense-paid trip to TFB Annual Meeting

### ***Top Eight Finalists:***

- \$1,000 cash award
- Engraved crystal award

\* Voucher must be used within one calendar year. The winner may choose from one or more of the member service dealers: Ford, Case IH, Grasshopper, CAT & John Deere. Must be a member benefit company product to qualify (Ford from a Ford dealer, etc.). Up to six transactions may be used to spend the prize money. Arrangements and approval must be made prior to purchase.

## **AFBF NATIONAL AWARDS**

- The AFBF Achievement Awards prize package will be published at a later date.

Additional information regarding this contest is also available at: [texasfarmbureau.org/YFR](http://texasfarmbureau.org/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.**

The 2026 Outstanding YF&R Contest Application must be submitted online on or before **11:59 pm, May 15, 2026**

# 2026 TFB Outstanding YF&R Contest Application

**This Application is submitted by:**

- An Individual
- A Couple

**Full Name Applicant #1 (A1)** (As it appears on your driver's license.)

<b>FIRST</b>	<b>MIDDLE</b>	<b>LAST</b>	<b>SUFFIX</b>

**Full Name - Applicant #2 (A2)** (As it appears on your driver's license.) *This contest is intended for an individual or couple involved in production agriculture. If you wish to apply as a couple, please fill out all information for Applicant #2 (A2) throughout this form.*

<b>FIRST</b>	<b>MIDDLE</b>	<b>LAST</b>	<b>SUFFIX</b>

**Mailing Address**

<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP</b>

**Physical Address** (if different than Mailing Address)

<b>PHY_ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHY_CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>PHY_ZIP</b>

**Preferred Cell Phone / Email**

<b>A1 - CELL PHONE</b>	<b>A2 - CELL PHONE</b>

<b>A1 - EMAIL</b>	<b>A2 - EMAIL</b>

**Date of Birth** (All applicants shall not have reached their 36th birthday on or before January 22, 2026.)

<b>A1 - DOB</b>	<b>A2 - DOB</b>

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**Are you an alumnus of any of the following youth organizations?**

(Check all that apply)

- 4-H
- AFA
- FFA
- MANRRS

**Do you have any ADA special requirements we should be aware of?**

- Yes
- No

**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 2026 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.**

# 2026 TFB Outstanding YF&R Contest Application

## **1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

- Please **DO NOT** use applicant(s) **NAME | STATE | COUNTY** | or **ANY NAMES** that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant(s) from this point (Section 1) forward in the application.
- Use first person narrative for questions 1 - 8 and 12.
- 'A1' and 'A2' may NOT be used for questions 1 - 8 and 12.
- Applicants must use 'A1' and 'A2' to denote each applicant for all of questions 9-11.

**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)*

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## **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)**

## **5. GOALS AND PLANNING**

**5a.) 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 2,000 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 1,500 characters)**

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## **7.) FINANCIAL SUCCESS: (Part 1)**

**7 a.) Describe the practices you use to evaluate the financial success of your farm/ranch, including ratios or analysis, record keeping systems and/or advisors used to support successful financial management. (Max 2,000 characters)**

**7 b.) Describe where you see your greatest financial strengths and weaknesses in your farm/ranch business. (Max 2,000 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 other additional farm/ranch business income such as supporting agri-businesses?**

- Yes
- No

**8 a.) If yes, 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)**

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## **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, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including 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 (2020-2021) County Farm Bureau*

**9 a-2.) Texas/American Farm Bureau) List Farm Bureau leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including 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 (2020-2021) Texas/American Farm Bureau

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**10.) LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: Other Agricultural Organizations**  
(From 18 to current)

**10.) List other agricultural leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), 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. (Approximately 2,500 characters) Example: A1 and A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2019 – present)**

## **11.) LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: Other**

**11.) 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. (Approximately 2,500 characters) Example: A1 – Local Elementary School, Served as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President (2018-2020)**

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## **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 1,500 characters)**

\*\* 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 2026 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 2026 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.**

- Choose File

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## **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