

**American Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award
Rules for 2012 AFBF Annual Meeting Competitive Event**

Background

The American Farm Bureau Federation annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award competitive event. State Farm Bureaus are encouraged to promote this activity among county Farm Bureaus. Selection of the winning Young Farmers & Ranchers 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 organization. **The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks.** It is recommended that the state Farm Bureaus provide, as part of the state recognition and award, an expense-paid trip to the AFBF Annual Meeting held in 2012 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Appropriate recognition will be given to all the national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Meeting. The AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers committee and the AFBF Organization Department will coordinate the program at the national level.

Eligibility

Competitors must meet the following criteria to compete.

- Members in good standing with their county Farm Bureau.
- Competitors shall be an individual or a married couple (husband & wife).
- Competitors shall be Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age. Individual or spouse shall not have reached their 36th birthday by January 31st after the AFBF Annual Meeting at which the competitive event is held. If spouse is over 35 years of age, the applicant must apply as an individual.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee or their spouses are not eligible to compete.
- Competitors must be actively engaged in farming or ranching with the majority of income coming from production agriculture.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners, and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- County, State and National Farm Bureau employees are not eligible; this also includes affiliate companies.
- Competitors may only compete in 1 national YF&R competitive event per year.

The American Farm Bureau YF&R Achievement Award recognizes both husband and wife in this competitive event. This is derived from the names on the applicant line. If the applicant is married, but only one of the partners is eligible, do not include any details concerning the spouse. Each state may submit one entry to be considered for national recognition. Applications of each state winner must be submitted using the AFBF entry form and application.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use your name, name of your state, your county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of your state beyond the entry form (page 3).
- The entry form and application must be in 10-point Times New Roman.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- Recreating the application on a computer is not allowed. This includes no font or format changes, including bolding.
- Application must be properly signed with no additional pages.
- Letter of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions will be terms for disqualification.
- During the interview process, do not use your name, the name of your state, your county or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of your state.
- Only the named applicant(s) on the entry form are permitted into the interview.
- States have permission to reproduce the attached application form.

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

Judging

- A panel of qualified judges will select the national winners.
- The application and entry form of each state winner will be coded upon receipt by AFBF. Applicant's name and state will not be revealed to the judges until they are finished judging the application.
- The Top 10 competitors will be interviewed by the same three judges who reviewed the written applications.
- Interviews will be up to 20 minutes in length and are intended to clear up any "gray areas" which may arise from the written application.
- If you become a top 10 finalist your interview is for verification/clarification purposes and it may affect your final ranking.
- Interviews will be held during the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Values used in judging the applications will be:
 - Farm Operation & Growth: 35 points
 - Financial Progress of Operation: 30 points
 - Farm Bureau Leadership: 20 points
 - Other Leadership: 15 points
- **TOTAL: 100 points**
- Judging is based on the application forms sent to the AFBF by the state Farm Bureaus and the clarifying interview held at the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Information contained in the entry form and application is considered confidential.

Deadline

States are encouraged to select their winners in time for recognition at their state Annual Meeting. Each state winner's application must be in the Kansas Farm Bureau office on or before **October 13, 2011** to be considered for national recognition and awards.