

**American Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
Excellence in Agriculture Award  
Rules for the 2012 AFBF Annual Meeting Competitive Event**

**Background**

The Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award Program is designed as an opportunity for Young Farmers & 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, involvement and participation 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 their income subject to normal production risk.** 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 January 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.

Information about the 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**

- Applicant(s) must be a Farm Bureau member or Farm Bureau member family and should be in good standing with their county Farm Bureau.
- An applicant can be either an individual or a married couple (husband and wife). If married, husband and wife may apply as individuals or as co-applicants.
- 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.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee or their spouses are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award winners, and/or previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Past state Achievement Award winners, and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Employees of County, State and American Farm Bureau and their affiliates are not eligible.
- Only one applicant per state will be eligible to compete in the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award Program.
- Competitors may compete in either the Achievement Award or Excellence in Agriculture Award Program Competitive Event, but not both in the same year.
- Competitors may only compete in one national YF&R competitive event per year.
- Applicants must not have derived a majority of their income from an owned production agriculture enterprise for the past three years.

**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 5). Verbal and presentation reference to your name, name of your state and county will be allowed during your presentation (see **Presentation Format** on 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.
- If applying as an individual, only include information pertinent to applicant.
- Application must be properly signed with no additional pages used.
- Letter of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions will be terms for disqualification.
- States have permission to reproduce the attached application form.
- Deadline for mailing entry forms for the AFBF Competitive Event is **October 14, 2011**.
- Presentations must be turned in at the YF&R Top 10 Excellence in Ag Competitor Orientation at the AFBF annual meeting on a CD or a USB flash drive. Please use Microsoft Power Point Version 2007 for your presentations.

**Judging Criteria**

The applications will be judged by one set of judges, and the presentations by a different set of judges.

<u>Application</u>		<u>Approx. %</u>
Questions II-IV,	120 pts.	30%
Farm Bureau Experience	100 pts.	25%
Other Leadership Experience	140 pts.	35%
Additional Awards and Recognition		
Application Form:		
(e.g., neatness, readability,		
Following instructions)		
	40 pts.	10%
<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>	<b>400 pts.</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Presentation (Top Ten Finalists)**

Overall Presentation	100 pts.	50%
Personal Growth and Development (Accomplishments)	50 pts.	25%
Leadership Involvement (Farm Bureau & other organizations)	50 pts.	25%
<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>	<b>200 pts.</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Total Score**