

**Kansas Farm Bureau
YF&R of the Year Award 2026 Application**

Rules for 2026 Kansas Farm Bureau Competition

Purpose:

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

Background

The Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) annually conducts a Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) of the Year Award competition. Selection of the winning 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 organization. **The ideal candidate(s) for the YF&R of the Year is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.**

Information about the YF&R of the Year Award 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 Kansas Farm Bureau organization. Applicant may choose to apply individually, rather than as a couple.
- 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 11, 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) must have at least three years of financial records showing that the majority of income came from production agriculture.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one state YF&R Competition per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, present Kansas YF&R Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Past Kansas YF&R of the Year Award winners are not eligible to compete. Past Kansas YF&R of the Year Award participants are eligible if they have not previously won the state competition.
- 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 who were responsible for implementing any of the YF&R Competitive Events at the state or national level are ineligible.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-9 and 13. Applicants must use "A1"/"A2" to denote each applicant for all of question 8-9.
- 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.
- It will be up to the judges' discretion to deduct points if applicants include activities before they were 18.
- The Financial Success section must be typed and notarized;
- All information is expected to be accurate, factual information. Should the applicant advance to the AFBF competition, further documentation of financial approval may be required. *There should be no financial cost to obtain information needed for State competition.

Note: Disregard of the guidelines will result in disqualification of the application.

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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 question 7.

Applicant(s)*: A1: _____ A2: _____

**Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: A1: _____ A2: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: A1: _____ A2: _____

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. **KFB DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A PARTICIPANT.** KFB reserves the right to use my (our) photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. 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 KFB YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

Applicant(s) Signature(s): A1: _____ A2: _____

1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- a. Briefly tell us about yourself, your family, education, and personal interests.

- b. Please describe your farm/ranch including how you acquired it, acres owned and rented, years in operation, crops and livestock. Include any other related business enterprises and their relationship/importance to the total farm/ranch.

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2. SCOPE OF YOUR FARM OR RANCH

- a. Explain the ownership structure of your farm/ranch and your vested interest. Please include detail regarding all enterprises in your explanation, if applicable.

- b. What percentage of the farm/ranch management decisions are you responsible for? Please break down for each enterprise, if applicable.

<u>Enterprise</u>	<u>% Management Decisions</u>

- c. Please add any additional information that helps explain the previous two responses, if needed.

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3. GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 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. This can include production efficiency growth you have seen.

4. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

- a. Please 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.

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5. GOALS & PLANNING

- 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.

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6. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 1

NOTE: In considering financial situation, judges will consider the whole application and how the financials are connected to the history, goals and strategies of the farm/ranch. Financials are not to be evaluated independent of the other sections.

- a. Using the grid below, please show your debt-to-asset ratio, including farm/ranch/personal debts and assets for each year requested:

Year	Total Debt (combined farm/ranch and personal debt)	Total Assets (combined farm/ranch and personal assets)	Debt to Asset Ratio (total debt divided by total assets)
First year (____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
Current year projection			

Please indicate whether the above reflects:

- ☐ the portion of the farm/ranch you own, as indicated in 2(a).

OR

- ☐ the portion of the farm/ranch for which you make management decisions *if more than the amount you own*, as indicated in 2(b).

Give an explanation of related irregularities or strategies, if needed:

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Using the grids below, please show total **farm/ranch** income, expenses and net profit for each year requested. *This should reflect anything related to the farm/ranch business(es) described in the application regardless of marketing practices, production methods or sources.*

TOTAL INCOME = Farm/Ranch Income + All other income related to the farm/ranch business(es)

Other Income Examples: farm bill payments, trade aid, conservation payments, net crop insurance benefits, and/or income derived from the marketing or selling of farm/ranch products/services such as specialty marketing, agritourism, etc. *(do not include off-farm or other enterprises that are unrelated to the farm/ranch operation)*

Year	Farm/Ranch Income	+ All other farm/ranch-related income	= Total Income
First year (_____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
Current year projection			

TOTAL EXPENSES = Farm/Ranch Expenses + Interest + Depreciation

Year	Farm/Ranch Expenses	+ Interest	+ Depreciation	= Total Expenses
First year (_____)				
3 years ago				
2 years ago				
1 year ago				
Current year projection				

NET PROFIT = Income - Expenses

Year	Total Income	- Total Expenses	= Net Profit
First year (_____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
Current year projection			

Please indicate whether the above reflects:

- ☐ the portion of the farm/ranch you own, as indicated in 2(a).
OR
☐ the portion of the farm/ranch for which you make management decisions *if more than the amount you own*, as indicated in 2(b).

Give an explanation of related irregularities or strategies, if needed:

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7. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 2

- a. Where do you see your greatest financial strengths and weaknesses in your farm/ranch business?
- b. Describe your record-keeping system and any advisors or supporting team members you rely on for evaluating the financial strength of your operation.
- c. Is there any off-farm income earned by you or your spouse and how is that income used?

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8. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: FARM BUREAU (from age 18 to current)

Note: This applies to both applicants, if applying together. Please indicate A1 and A2 when applicable.

List Farm Bureau and other agricultural 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 (county, state, national). *Example: A1 – Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2018-2019)*

9. 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, etc.) *Example: A1 – Local Elementary School, Served as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President (2018-2020)*