

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award

Rules for 2024

LFBF Annual Convention Competition

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Purpose:

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

Background

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation (LFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competition. Parish Farm Bureaus are encouraged to promote this activity. Selection of the winning YF&R competitor is based on their efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. **The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of their gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.** It is recommended that parish Farm Bureaus provide an expense-paid trip to the 2024 LFBF Annual Convention held in New Orleans, LA, June 26-30. Appropriate recognition will be given to all state competitors in attendance at the LFBF Annual Convention. The LFBF YF&R Committee and the LFBF Field Services Department will coordinate the program at the state level.

Information about the Achievement Award applicant is requested on the entry form. ALL INFORMATION IS HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND IS DESTROYED AFTER JUDGING IS COMPLETED.

Eligibility:

The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of their gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.

- An applicant can be either an individual or a couple that is married or has similar legal rights under the law applicable to the state 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 their parish Farm Bureau. The individual or spouse/spousal-equivalent shall have reached their 18th birthday at the time they qualify for the national competition and shall not have reached their 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 27, 2025).
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of their 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 and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees or agents of parish, 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 at the state or national level since January 1, 2019, are ineligible.
- Each parish Farm Bureau may submit one entry to be considered for state recognition and must use the LFBF entry form and application.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of their parish or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's parish 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 sections 1-9 and 13. "A1"/"A2" may not be used for sections 1-9 and 13. Applicants must use "A1"/"A2" to denote each applicant for all of sections 10-12.

- The Financial Success section must be typed, signed and notarized; handwritten financial forms will be disqualified. If the notarization includes a parish identifier such as a parish name or seal, the identifier needs to be blacked out.
- 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.
- The attached entry form and application is an example of the information needed for the official online application. No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted. All entry forms & applications must be submitted using the JotForm online application.
- Parish Farm Bureaus have permission to reproduce the attached entry form for parish-level competition or as a recruitment tool.
- It will be up to the judges' discretion to deduct points if applicants include activities before they were 18.

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

VIRTUAL CONVENTION: If LFBF is unable to hold the 2024 Annual Convention in-person for any reason, the competitive events could be held virtually. In the event of virtual competitions, changes in timing and format of the competitions are likely to be required. For example, some portions of the competition may take place prior to the virtual convention. Applicants will be advised as soon as possible after the decision is made.

Judging

- The entry form and application of each parish entry will be coded upon receipt by LFBF. The applicant's name and parish will not be revealed to the judges until judging is completed.
- Judging is based on the application sent to LFBF by the parish Farm Bureau. An interview with the Top 3 finalists prior the LFBF Annual Convention determines final scores and rank.
- A panel of qualified judges will select the state winners. The Top 3 competitors will be interviewed by the same judges who reviewed the written applications.
- Finalists' interviews will be conducted during the week of May 20-24, 2024.
- Interviews will be up to 20 minutes in length and are intended to evaluate the competitor's command of the farm/ranch business and financials, familiarity of the contents of the application and appreciation for the value of Farm Bureau (see rubric). In addition to the 5 points allocated for the interview, judges may alter scores from other sections based on what they learn during the interview.
- During the interview process, only the named applicant(s) on the entry form is permitted into the interview, and the applicant(s) should refrain from using the name of their parish, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of their parish. Applicants can refer to each other by their first name throughout the interview.

Scoring:

Category	Points
1. Personal Background	10
2. Scope of Farm/Ranch	15
3. Growth & Achievements	25
4. Management Decisions	15
5. Goals & Planning	10
6. Resiliency	10
7. Financial Success Part 1: Debt-to-Asset Ratio and Profit	25
8. Financial Success Part 2: Analysis and Record Keeping	15
9. Financial Success Part 3: Off-Farm Income	10
10. Leadership Experience: Farm Bureau	30
11. Leadership Experience: Other Ag Organizations	10
12. Leadership Experience: Other	10
13. Leadership Growth and Development	10
Total Application Points	195
Interview (Top 3 competitors only)	5
TOTAL POINTS	200

****The chart above is not the rubric. Please refer to the separate rubric document for all scoring criteria.**

Finalists

Applicants are able to apply for both the LFBF Discussion Meet and the LFBF Achievement Award or the LFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award. Those applicants who are selected as a finalist in either the LFBF Achievement Award or the LFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award will not be allowed to participate in the Discussion Meet and will have their application pulled; no replacement will be allowed.

Parish Promotion of State Contests

Parish Farm Bureaus are required to advertise the parish applicant **one** time during the year through a print advertisement, an article in a local publication(s), or on social media. These promotions will qualify the parish entries to receive the state prizes, should they be the winner or finalist of one of the state competitions. **Promotion must be specific to promoting the LFBF YF&R competitions and must recognize the parish applicant.**

PowerPoint Competitor Template

PowerPoint competitor templates that highlight the parish entry must be completed using the template provided by LFBF. This template is available from the state YF&R coordinator. It should include the applicant's 500-character bio written in third person and 2-3 pictures of the applicant and their agricultural operation or involvement. Please include crediting information for photos in the appropriate section of the signature page. *All pictures and presentations become the property of LFBF.*

Deadline

Parishes are encouraged to select their entries in time for recognition at their parish annual meeting. The parish's entry form and application must be submitted using the JotForm online system via the Louisiana Farm Bureau website (www.lafarmbureau.org) **on or before 11:59 p.m. CST March 1, 2024. The parish's signatures, state contest advertisement and competitor PowerPoints are also due at this time** to be considered for state recognition and awards.

Interview (Finalists Only)

The three finalists will be required to meet at the State Office for their scheduled interview with the judges which will be conducted via Zoom. It will be an interactive interview in which the competitor(s) will have the opportunity to discuss and clarify the contents of their application with the panel of judges. Dress should be business attire. No props will be allowed.

Tentative Prize List

- \$35,000 cash prize credit toward the purchase of a truck (courtesy of Southern FB Casualty Insurance Co.)
- Trip to AFBF Convention in San Antonio, TX, January 2025 for winner(s) (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$250 Cash (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$250 Cash (courtesy of Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Companies)

**Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award**

2024 Entry Form

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Please submit this form via the online application process. No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted.

The parish's entry form and application must be submitted using the JotForm online system via the Louisiana Farm Bureau website **on or before 11:59 p.m. CST March 1, 2024.**

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 10-12.

Applicant(s)*: A1: _____ A2: _____
**Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: A1: _____ A2: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: A1: _____ A2: _____

Date of Birth: A1: _____ A2: _____

Are you an alumnus of any of the following youth organizations? (Check all that apply)

- 4-H AFA FFA MANRRS

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. **LFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A PARISH FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** LFBF 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 LFBF YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

VIRTUAL CONVENTION: If LFBF is unable to hold the 2024 Annual Convention in-person for any reason, the competitive events could be held virtually. In the event of virtual competitions, changes in timing and format of the competitions are likely to be required. For example, some portions of the competition may take place prior to the virtual convention. Applicants will be advised as soon as possible after the decision is made.

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

I hereby certify that the above-named applicant(s) is the official parish entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for LFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award for 2024.

Parish President Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parish: _____ Membership #: _____

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2024 Application

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1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND

a. Briefly tell us about yourself, your family, education, and personal interests. **Approximately 2,000 characters**

b. Please describe your farm/ranch including how you acquired it, acres owned and rented, years in operation, crops and livestock. **Approximately 2,000 characters**

WORKSHEET ONLY

- c. List any other related business enterprises and their relationship to/importance in the total farm/ranch. **Approximately 1,500 characters**

- d. Tell us about how you advocate for agriculture. **Approximately 1,500 characters**

2. SCOPE OF YOUR FARM OR RANCH

- a. Explain the ownership structure of your farm/ranch and your vested interest. Please include all enterprises in your explanation, if applicable. **Approximately 2,000 characters**

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**

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

c. Please add any additional information that helps explain the previous two responses, if needed. **Approximately 1,000 characters**

d. Describe your role in the operation. Explain specifically your duties and decision-making responsibilities. **Approximately 2,000 characters**

WORKSHEET ONLY

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. **Approximately 3,000 characters**

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

WORKSHEET ONLY

4. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

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. **Approximately 3,500 characters**

WORKSHEET
ONLY

5. GOALS & PLANNING

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

6. RESILIENCY

- 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.). **Approximately 2,000 characters**

WORKSHEET ONLY

- b. Describe the transition or succession plan(s) you have for your farm/ranch. If you do not have either, please explain. **Approximately 1,500 characters**

7. 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. *All figures must appear as whole numbers.*

- 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			
2024 year-end projections			

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: **Approximately 1,000 characters**

- b. 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			
2024 year-end projections			

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				
2024 year-end projections				

NET PROFIT = Income - Expenses

Year	Total Income	- Total Expenses	= Net Profit
First year (____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
2024 year-end projections			

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: **Approximately 1,000 characters**

Banker/Loan Officer/Tax Accountant Signature: _____

**This signature verifies the years completed, not the projections.*

Notary Signature: _____

Notary Stamp:

8. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 2

- 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.
Approximately 2,000 characters

- b. Describe where you see your greatest financial strengths and weaknesses in your farm/ranch business.
Approximately 2,000 characters

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9. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 3

a. Do you have any other **farm/ranch business** income not otherwise shown in the financials section (such as supporting agri-businesses)? If so, how is that income used? **Approximately 1,000 characters**

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

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

10. 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 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 (parish, state, national).

Example: A1 – Elected President of the Parish Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2020-2021)

Approximately 2,500 characters

Parish Farm Bureau

State/American Farm Bureau

WORKSHEET ONLY

11. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS (from age 18 to current)

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) *Example: A1 and A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2019 – present)* **Approximately 2,500 characters**

12. 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)* **Approximately 2,500 characters**

13. LEADERSHIP GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- a. Describe your most impactful leadership experience and any actions you have taken to better yourself as a leader or businessperson. **Approximately 2,500 characters**

- b. Describe your goals for leadership growth and development. **Approximately 1,500 characters**

WORKSHEET ONLY