

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award

Rules for 2024 LFBF Annual Convention Competition

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Background

The Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Excellence in Agriculture Award competition is designed as an opportunity for young farmers and 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, and participation/involvement 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 gross income subject to normal production risk.** It is recommended that the parish Farm Bureaus provide an expense-paid trip to the 2024 LFBF Annual Convention held in New Orleans, LA, June 27-30, 2024. 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 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

- 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 state competition and shall not have reached their 36th birthday by the completion of the competition. Competitors qualify at the time the state application is submitted and the completion of the national competition which is the day awards are given out (Monday, January 27, 2025).
- Applicant(s) must be in attendance on-site at the LFBF Annual Convention to compete.
- Applicant(s) must not have derived a majority of their gross income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in any of the past three years.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one national 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.
- Past state YF&R Excellence in Agriculture 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 state or parish, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's parish beyond the entry form. Verbal and presentation reference to applicant's name, state and parish will be allowed during your presentation for personalization of presentation.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-5. "A1"/"A2" may not be used for questions 1-5. Applicants must use "A1"/"A2" to denote each applicant for all of question 6.
- 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 are examples of the information needed for the official online application. No emailed or mailed entry forms 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.

Presentation Guidelines (Finalists Only)

- Excellence in Agriculture Finalist presentations will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans during the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention.
- The presentation will be an interactive, 25-minute presentation in which the finalists have an opportunity to share the contents of their entire application in narrative form with a panel of three judges and the audience.
 - Finalists will have 25 minutes to present on the topics addressed in the application and address questions from the judges. Finalists will be notified by the timekeeper when 10 minutes are remaining and again when five minutes are remaining. Each judge will be prepared to ask at least one question. At 25 minutes, time will be called and the finalist's time in front of the judges will conclude even if judges have not been able to ask their questions. It will be up to the finalists to determine how to use this time. If the answers to the judges' questions are complete before time is called, the room moderator will call time.
- The only visual means in which to deliver the information is through a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation. A computer, LCD projector, screen and one slide advancer remote will be provided. All presentations must be formatted to work on a PC. Finalists will not be allowed to use their own computer.
- **A digital version of the presentation must be submitted to the state office no later than May 1, 2024.**
- Verbal and presentation references to finalists' name, state and parish will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props (including notes), sound or video of any kind will be allowed during the presentation.
- Finalists are not allowed to view other presentations until after they have completed their own.

Application Judging

- All applications will be judged prior to the LFBF Annual Convention, by three representatives from the industry. These are the only judges that will be reviewing and scoring the applications.
- All judges will use the application rubric to score the applications.
- The following breakdown of points will be used for the application:

<u>Application</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Approx. %</u>
Questions 2-4: Ag Involvement, Impact on Ag and Issues Facing Ag Goals	180 points	45.0%
Farm Bureau Experience	40 points	10.0%
Other Leadership Experience	90 points	22.5%
Application Form: Writing should be clear, descriptive and free of grammatical errors.	80 points	20.0%
	<u>10 points</u>	<u>2.5%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 points	100% (80% of Total Score)

Presentation Judging (Finalists Only)

- All finalists will present during the LFBF Annual Convention.
- All judges will use the same presentation rubric to score the presentations.
- The winner will be determined based on the combined application and presentation scores.
- The following breakdown of points will be used for the presentation:

<u>Presentation</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Approx. %</u>
Delivery of Presentation	30 points	30%
Content of Presentation	40 points	40%
Responses to Questions	30 points	30%
MAXIMUM POINTS	100 points	100% (20% of Total Score)

****The above breakdowns are not the rubric. Please refer to the separate rubric documents 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.

Tentative Prize List

- \$7,500 toward the purchase of a 4-Wheel All-Terrain Single Rider Vehicle; Non-Utility/Non-Side by Side/Non-Multiuse Vehicle (Courtesy of Louisiana Land Bank)
- 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)

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Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

2024 Application

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Note: Remember to write in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-5. Remember no parish-specific identifiers.

1. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests) – ***Approximately 2,000 characters***

2. **AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT** – ***Approximately 2,500 characters***

A. Please explain the applicant's (applicant's) occupation.

2. AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT (continued) - *Approximately 2,500 characters*

B. Please explain the applicant's (applicants') personal involvement in agriculture/agribusiness.

3. IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE - *Approximately 5,000 characters*

Clearly describe the efforts the applicant(s) has taken to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry. Examples may include things such as hosting farm tours, legislative visits, writing a blog, etc.

4. **ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE - *Approximately 5,000 characters***

- A. Agriculture faces important issues at the local, state, national and international levels. Explain three important issues that the industry needs to address in the next five years. Choose one issue from three of the four levels mentioned above. For example, an applicant might select ag literacy as a local issue, mental health as a state issue and rural broadband as a national issue.

WORKSHEET
ONLY

4. **ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE (continued) – Approximately 5,000 characters**

- B. Choose one of the issues in your response to 4A and discuss how you personally have addressed, or can address, that issue and work towards a resolution.

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5. **GOALS - Approximately 5,000 characters**

What goals does the applicant(s) have for the next five years related to their career, Farm Bureau involvement and involvement with other organizations? What steps have been made to reach these goals?

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6. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (from age 18 to current)- Approximately 2,500 characters**

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

- A. List Farm Bureau leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. Please include years of involvement. *Example: A1 – Elected President of the Parish Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2020-2021)*

Parish Farm Bureau

State/American Farm Bureau

WORKSHEET ONLY

6. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)- Approximately 2,500 characters**

- B. List other agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, 4-H, etc.). Please include organization, description and years of involvement.

Example: A1 & A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2019 – present)

- C. List other community and non-agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers (i.e. civic/service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.) Please include organization, description and years of involvement.

Example: A1 – Local Elementary School, Served as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President (2018-2021)

If you had any situations or circumstances that may have affected your leadership experience, please use this space to explain. **Approximately 250 characters**
*Note: There are **no** points associated to this section and can be left blank.*

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