

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award

Rules for the 2024 LFBF Annual Convention Competition

Background

The Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award is a program designed and promoted by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation (LFBF) Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee to recognize women for outstanding achievement. The role of women in agriculture has changed a great deal in the past decade. As their roles change, the State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee felt a program was needed to recognize their efforts and promote leadership development. It is our hope that the Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award will assist in reaching this goal. It is recommended that parish Farm Bureaus provide an expenses-paid trip to the LFBF Annual Convention held in New Orleans, LA June 27-30, 2024.

Information about the Outstanding Young Farm Woman applicant is requested on the entry form. ALL INFORMATION IS HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND IS DESTROYED AFTER JUDGING IS COMPLETED.

Eligibility

- Applicant(s) shall be a Farm Bureau member(s) between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with her parish Farm Bureau. The individual shall have reached her 18th birthday at the time she qualifies for the state competition and shall not have reached her 36th birthday by the completion of the competition. Competitors qualify at the time the state application is submitted and the completion of the competition is the day awards are given out (Thursday, June 27, 2024).
- Applicants are able to apply for both the Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award and either the Achievement Award, or the Discussion Meet.
- Past state Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of parish, state and/or American Farm Bureaus 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.
- Contestants should derive a majority of their gross income from an owned agricultural operation.
- Each parish may submit one entry to be considered for state recognition and must use the LFBF entry form and application.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Applicants for the State Award must use the official entry form posted online at www.lafarmbureau.org. Please keep your answers within the space allowed.
- Do not use applicant's name, the name of her parish, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's parish beyond the entry form (pages 1-4).
- 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.
- 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.

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 and an interview prior to the LFBF Annual Convention.
- A panel of three qualified judges will select the state winner. The Top 3 competitors will be interviewed by the same three 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 clear up any "gray areas" which may arise from the written application. The Top 3 competitors should understand that their interview is for verification/clarification purposes and therefore may affect final rankings.
- During the interview process, only the named applicant(s) on the entry form is permitted into the interview.
- The basis of their award is the individual's contributions to agriculture:

Regular/ Daily involvement in personal farming operation	40 points
Knowledge of agriculture	25 points
Involvement in ag-related organizations	25 points
<u>Involvement in community and service programs</u>	<u>10 points</u>
TOTAL POINTS	100 points

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

- \$2,000 Visa Gift Card (courtesy of Louisiana Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company)
- Trip to AFBF FUSION Conference in 2025 for winner (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$500 Cash (courtesy of BASF)
- \$250 Farm Bureau Bank Card (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$250 Farm Bureau Bank Card (courtesy of Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Companies)

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2024 Entry Form

All applications must be **typed** using the JotForm online application, which only requires internet access. No handwritten applications will be accepted. The applicant should carefully read through this application and entry form before filling out any part of it. The parish winner's application and entry form must be **electronically submitted to the state office by March 1, 2024 at 11:59pm CST.**

Applicants are able to apply for the LFBF Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award and the LFBF Achievement Award, or the LFBF Discussion Meet.

Applicant*: _____
**Will be used for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Spouse's Name (if married): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Number of years you have been active in farming: _____

Highest grade or degree of schooling completed: _____

Education/Degree: _____

Short courses or other specialized study: _____

Number of children: _____ Ages: _____

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) 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.

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Applicant Signature

Date

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

Parish President Signature

Date

Parish

Membership #

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2024 Application

1. INTRODUCTION: Briefly explain type of farming operation - *1,250 character count max*

2. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (from age 18 to current)– *Approximately 2,500 characters per section*

Note: This applies to you.

A. List the Farm Bureau leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. Please include years of involvement. *List each activity on a new line, followed by the applicable year(s).*

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

Parish Farm Bureau

State/American Farm Bureau

2. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued) - Approximately 2,500 characters per section

- B.** List other agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. *List each organization on a new line, followed by a short description of your involvement, followed by the year(s).*
Example: National FFA Organization: American Degree Recipient (2020)

- C.** List community and non-agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. (For example, civic/service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.). *List each organization on a new line, followed by a short description of your involvement, followed by the year(s).*
Example: Local Methodist Church: Church Deacons (2020 - 2021)

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

3. **ESSAY QUESTIONS:** Express your viewpoint as the topic relates to you. - *Approximately 2,500 characters per section*

A. Importance of Farm Bureau to you as a young farm woman.

B. Importance of agriculture as a way of life.

WORKSHEET
ONLY

3. **ESSAY QUESTIONS:** Express your viewpoint as the topic relates to you. - *Approximately 2,500 characters per section*

C. What do you think is the single most important problem facing agriculture?

D. What is your daily role in your farming operation?

WORKSHEET ONLY

3. **ESSAY QUESTIONS:** Express your viewpoint as the topic relates to you. - *Approximately 2,500 characters per section*

E. What are your contributing efforts in your family operations?

WORKSHEET
ONLY