

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award
Rules for 2018 LFBF Annual Convention Competition

Background

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation (LFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competition. Each parish Farm Bureau is encouraged to promote this activity. 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 Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her income subject to normal production risks.** It is recommended that parish Farm Bureaus provide an expenses-paid trip to the LFBF Annual Convention held in 2018 in New Orleans, LA, June 21-24. Appropriate recognition will be given to all state competitors in attendance at the LFBF State 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

- 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 his/her parish Farm Bureau. The individual or spouse/spousal-equivalent shall have reached his/her 18th birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the state competition and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31, 2019.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her income coming from production agriculture.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one state YF&R competition per year.
- Past state YF&R Achievement 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.
- 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

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her parish, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's parish beyond the entry form.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-VI. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VII.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms. LFBF, FB, and YF&R are acceptable to use throughout the application.

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

Judging

- The entry form and application of each state 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 the LFBF State 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.
- The finalists must have all interview presentation material turned into the state office by May 1, 2018. Finalists' interviews will be conducted during the week of May 21-25.
- 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, and the applicant(s) should refrain from using the name of his/her parish, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of his/her parish. Applicants can refer to each other by their first name throughout the interview.

- Values used in judging the applications will be:

Farm Operation and Growth:	70 points
Financial Progress of Operation:	60 points
Farm Bureau Leadership:	40 points
Other Leadership:	30 points (Agriculture = 15 points, Community = 10 points, Goals = 5 points)
Total:	200 points

Deadline

Applications must be **received** in the state office no later than MARCH 1, 2018. The digital version of this application can be found online at www.lafarmbureau.org. **Applicants entering their parish YF&R contest will not be required to fill out the financial statement.** Only parish winners entering on the state level are required to fill out the financial statements. Each parish should take advantage of the opportunity for much valuable publicity and promotion in recognizing its parish winners on a local level.

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.

Interview/Presentation (Finalists Only)

The three finalists will be required to submit 15 pictures, in digital format, to the State Office. A picture is defined as a single image captured during a single moment in time. (The State Office is **not** responsible for the quality of pictures submitted and used in the interview process.) Be sure to include a family portrait. Pictures must be high quality as they will be used in a PowerPoint presentation during the interview process. Contestants will determine order of pictures submitted. 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 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 New Orleans, LA, January 2019 for winner(s) (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$1,500 Equipment Rental (courtesy of H&E Equipment Services)
- \$250 Visa Gift Card (courtesy of Conquest Completion Services, LLC)
- \$250 Choice Hotel Gift Card (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$250 Farm Bureau Bank Card (courtesy of Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Companies)

**Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award
2018 Entry Form**

Note: Please complete this form using the application online at www.lafarmbureau.org. All applications must be **typed** in the form provided. 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 **received in the state office on or before March 1, 2018**, to the office of Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, PO Box 95004, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895-9004 or megang@lfbf.org.

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 VI.

Applicant(s)*: A1 _____ A2 _____
**Will be used for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: A1 _____ A2 _____

Date of Birth: A1 _____ A2 _____

Education/Degree: A1 _____ A2 _____

Short Courses/Specialized Study: A1 _____ A2 _____

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.

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

I hereby certify that the above named applicant(s) is the official state entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for LFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award for 2018.

Parish President Signature

Date

Parish

Membership #

III. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATION – *Approximately 1,100 characters per section***

A. List Major Crops*	First Year: _____	Current Year	
	<i>No. of Acres</i>	<i>No. of Acres</i>	<i>Yield per Acre</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Indicate if irrigated*

B. Under “Volume of Production,” indicate number of head, pounds, dozen or other appropriate measure of volume.

Enterprise	First Year: _____	<u>Volume of Production</u>	Current Year
	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Please be creative in explaining the operation if the agricultural enterprise does not fit within Sections A and B – ***Approximately 2,000 characters.***

III. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued) – *Approximately 2,500 characters per section***

D. How was the agricultural operation acquired? Indicate, in narrative form, what portion of the operation was purchased or personally earned by the applicant(s), acquired through inheritance, or acquired through partnership conversion, rental, or by a contract or management arrangement.

E. List other agricultural or related business enterprises, describing the size, relationship and importance to the total operation (i.e., custom harvesting, processing, ag tourism, etc.).

III. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued) - *Approximately 5,000 characters***

- F. Describe significant changes, expansion or improvement in management and marketing practices, and the acquisition of agricultural machinery, equipment and irrigation systems, and/or buildings built or devised by the applicant(s) since his/her involvement in the operation began.

IV. **APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Upload signed document as PDF**

Note: All information submitted is regarded as confidential, and upon completion of judging, all applications are returned to the LFBF office to be destroyed.

Current market value of the **share of just the applicant(s)** of:

A. ASSETS	First Year: _____	2017	2016	2015
1. Value of land, building & other improvements	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Value of machinery & equipment	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Value of livestock & poultry	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Value of crops & supplies on hand	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Value of cash, stocks, bonds, other personal assets	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Non-ag assets (primary dwelling, rental homes, etc.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL ASSETS	_____	_____	_____	_____
B. LIABILITIES				
1. Current liabilities (less than one year)	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Intermediate liabilities	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Long-term liabilities (10 years and up)	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET WORTH (total assets-total liabilities)	_____	_____	_____	_____
DEBT/ASSET RATIO (total liabilities/total assets)	_____	_____	_____	_____
C. AG EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS				
1. Total agricultural expenses	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Total agricultural receipts	_____	_____	_____	_____
OPERATING EXPENSE RATIO (Total ag expenses/total ag receipts)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please explain any situations or circumstances that may have affected the above financial numbers:

Banker/Loan Officer/Tax Accountant Signature: _____

IV. **APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT (continued) – Approximately 2,500 characters per section**
Note: All information submitted is regarded as confidential, and upon completion of judging, all applications are returned to the LFBF office to be destroyed.

- D. Indicate other sources of income and property acquisition during the years the applicant(s) has been farming, such as off-farm employment, spouse/spousal-equivalent's income, gifts, prizes and/or inheritances.
- E. Discuss any unusual situations/problems that may have affected the operation that the applicant(s) has overcome and solved.

V. **Progress of Operation – Approximately 5,000 characters**

- A. List specific goals or objectives and achievements gained for production efficiency developed by the applicant(s) in improving the quality of the farming program such as: weight of pigs at 56 days, ratio of pounds of feed to pounds of gain, cost per 100 pounds of gain, pounds of butterfat per cow or yield per acre, efficient land use, or acreage increases.

Example: 2010 Goals: Establish a purebred Angus cow herd; 2016 Achievement: currently own 50 head; Future Goal: increase herd by 10% each year.

Goals in First Year

Current Achievement

Future Goals

V. **PROGRESS OF OPERATION (continued) - *Approximately 2,500 characters per section***

B. Describe ways in which the applicant(s) measures and evaluates the management of his/her farming operation.

C. Indicate plans the applicant(s) has for future expansion, improvements or changes in the agricultural operation.

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

- A. What goals does the applicant(s) have for the next five years related to his/her career, Farm Bureau involvement and involvement in other organizations?

VII. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE - *Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)***

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 (2016-2017)*

Parish Farm Bureau

State/American Farm Bureau

VII. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued) - Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)**

- 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 and A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2013 – present)

Organization	Description	Years
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- 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 PTA President (2015-2016)

Organization	Description	Years
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