**Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation**

**Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award**

**Rules for 2020 ArFB Competition**

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**Background**

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competition. Selection of the winning YF&R competitor is based on his/her 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 his/her net income subject to normal production risks**

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 county Farm Bureau. The individual or spouse 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 Jan. 31, 2021.
* Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her net 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 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.
* 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.

**Entry Form & Application Guidelines**

* The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-6.
* The Financial Statement must be typed and notarized; handwritten financial forms will be disqualified.
* 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.

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

**Agreement**

All applicants MUST agree to the following, in the event they are named a finalist or the State winner(s):

* Three state finalists are required to attend the ArFB Officers & Leaders Conference in Rogers, AR on **July 23-24, 2020**.
* The state winner must complete the AFBF Achievement Award Application by October 31, 2020.
* The state winner must attend the AFBF Annual Convention in 2021 in San Diego, CA, **January 8-13, 2021**. (expenses paid)

**Judging**

* Judging is based on the application sent to ArFB and an interview.
* A panel of three qualified judges will select the winners
* 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.
* During the interview process, only the named applicant(s) on the entry form is permitted into 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**

Application must be received in the state office no later than **March 31, 2020**. Please submit to yfr@arfb.com. In person interviews will take place at the Farm Bureau Center in Little Rock, **April 25, 2020**.

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**2020 Entry Form**

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Please submit this form via email to yfr@arfb.com.

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and your spouse, if married.

Applicant(s)\*: A1 A2

*\*Will be used in the program and 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. ARFB 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.

Applicant(s) Signature(s): A1 A2

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**2020 Application**

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*Note: This application should reflect the operations of the immediate past tax accounting year. Remember to complete the application using first person narration (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-6.*

1. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests) – ***Approximately 1,500 characters***
2. **AGRICULTURAL STATUS** (Select all that apply) –
	1. Owner Renter Manager

 Please explain if:

 Partnership Corporation Joint Venture Other

 Explanation – ***Approximately 250 characters*:**

* 1. Please indicate and justify the percentage of contribution in the operation by the applicant(s) in the following areas:

 % personal capital involved

 % management/decision making

* 1. Please list specific responsibilities of the applicant(s) – ***Approximately 900 characters***
	2. Total acres operated: Acres owned:
	3. Year applicant(s) started farming or ranching:
1. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATION – *Approximately 1,100 characters per section***
	1. **List Major Crops**\* **First** **Year:** **Current Year**

 *No. of Acres No. of Acres Yield per Acre*

*\*Indicate if irrigated*

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

 Volume of Production

 **Enterprise** **First Year:** **Current Year**

* 1. Please be creative in explaining the operation if the agricultural enterprise does not fit within Sections A and B – ***Approximately 2,000 characters***.
1. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued) – *Approximately 2,500 characters per section***
2. 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.
3. 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.).

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

1. 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.
2. **APPLICANT’S FINANCIAL STATEMENT – *Upload typed, signed and notarized document as a PDF. (No handwritten financials will be accepted.)***

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

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

1. **ASSETS** **First Year:** **2018 2017 2016**
2. Value of land, building & other improvements
3. Value of machinery & equipment
4. Value of livestock & poultry
5. Value of crops & supplies on hand
6. Value of cash, stocks, bonds, other personal assets
7. Non-ag assets (primary dwelling, rental homes, etc.)

**TOTAL ASSETS**

1. **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)

1. **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:

Notary Public Signature and Stamp:

1. **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 AFBF office to be destroyed.*

1. 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.
2. Discuss any unusual situations/problems that may have affected the operation that the applicant(s) has overcome and solved.
3. **Progress of Operation – *Approximately 5,000 characters***
	1. 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.

 **Goals in First Year Current Achievement Future Goals**

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

* 1. Describe ways in which the applicant(s) measures and evaluates the management of his/her farming operation.
1. Indicate plans the applicant(s) has for future expansion, improvements or changes in the agricultural operation.
2. **GOALS - *Approximately 5,000 characters***
3. 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?
4. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (from age 18 to current) - *Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)***

 *Note: This applies to both applicants, if applying together.*

1. 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.

**County Farm Bureau**

**State/American Farm Bureau**

1. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (from age 18 to current) - *Approximately 2,500 characters per section (20 lines)***
2. 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**

1. 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 (2015-2016)*

 **Organization Description Years**

1. Please explain any situations or circumstances that may have affected your leadership experiences. ***Approximately 250 characters***