

**American Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award
Rules for 2010 AFBF Annual Meeting Competitive Event**

Background

The American Farm Bureau Federation annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award competitive event. State Farm Bureaus are encouraged to promote this activity among county Farm Bureaus. Selection of the winning Young Farmers & Ranchers 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 their income subject to normal production risks.** It is recommended that the state Farm Bureaus provide, as part of the state recognition and award, an expense-paid trip to the AFBF Annual Meeting held 2010 in Seattle, WA. Appropriate recognition will be given to all the national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Meeting. The AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers committee and the AFBF Organization Department will coordinate the program at the national level.

Eligibility

Competitors must meet the following criteria to compete.

- Members in good standing with their county Farm Bureau.
- Competitors shall be an individual or a married couple (husband & wife).
- Competitors shall be Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age. Individual or spouse shall not have reached their 36th birthday by January 31st after the AFBF Annual Meeting at which the competitive event is held. If spouse is over 35 years of age, the applicant must apply as an individual.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee or their spouses are not eligible to compete.
- Competitors must be actively engaged in farming or ranching with the majority of income coming from production agriculture.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners, and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- County, State and National Farm Bureau employees are not eligible; this also includes affiliate companies.
- Competitors may only compete in 1 national YF&R competitive event per year.

The American Farm Bureau YF&R Achievement Award recognizes both husband and wife in this competitive event. This is derived from the names on the applicant line. If the applicant is married, but only one of the partners is eligible, do not include any details concerning the spouse. Each state may submit one entry to be considered for national recognition. Applications of each state winner must be submitted using the AFBF entry form and application.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use your name, name of your state, your county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of your state beyond the entry form (page 3).
- The entry form and application must be in 10-point Times New Roman.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- Recreating the application on a computer is not allowed. This includes no font or format changes, including bolding.

- Application must be properly signed with no additional pages.
- Letter of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions will be terms for disqualification.
- During the interview process, do not use your name, the name of your state, your county or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of your state.
- Only the named applicant(s) on the entry form are permitted into the interview.
- States have permission to reproduce the attached application form.

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

Judging

- A panel of qualified judges will select the national winners.
- The application and entry form of each state winner will be coded upon receipt by AFBF. Applicant's name and state will not be revealed to the judges until they are finished judging the application.
- The Top 10 competitors will be interviewed by the same three judges who reviewed the written applications.
- 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.
- If you become a top 10 finalist your interview is for verification/clarification purposes and it may affect your final ranking.
- Interviews will be held during the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Values used in judging the applications will be:

Farm Operation & Growth	35 points
Financial Progress of Operation	30 points
Farm Bureau Leadership	20 points
Other Leadership	15 points
TOTAL	100 points
- Judging is based on the application forms sent to the AFBF by the state Farm Bureaus and the clarifying interview held at the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Information contained in the entry form and application is considered confidential.

PowerPoint Presentation

This year there will be no posters at the annual meeting; instead there will be a power point presentation available for members to watch on the 2010 national competitors. The presentations must be filled out using the template provided by AFBF. This template is available through your state coordinator and includes your bio and 2-3 pictures of you and your agricultural operation or involvement. *All pictures and presentations become property of AFBF.* **The power point presentation needs to be turned in on a CD with the application.**

Deadline

States are encouraged to select their winners in time for recognition at their state Annual Meeting. Each state winner's application must be in the American Farm Bureau office on or before **4:45 p.m. EST December 15, 2009** to be considered for national recognition and awards.

III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION

A. List major crops*

	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Current Year</u>	
	<u>No. of Acres</u>	<u>No. of Acres</u>	<u>Yield per Acre</u>

*Indicate if irrigated

B. Under volume of production, indicate number of head, pounds, dozen or other appropriate measure of volume.

<u>Enterprise</u>	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Volume of Production</u>	<u>Current Year</u>
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C. Please be creative in explaining your operation if your agricultural enterprise does not fit with Sections A & B.

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III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued)

D. List other agricultural or related business enterprises and describe size and relate importance to your total operation.

E. How was your agricultural operation acquired? Indicate, in narrative form, what portion of your operation was purchased or personally earned, acquired through inheritance, through partnership conversion, rental, contract or management arrangement.

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III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued)

- F. Explain significant agricultural machinery, equipment irrigation systems and/ or buildings built or devised by the applicant during the years you have been farming.

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III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued)

- G. Describe changes, expansion or improvement in management and marketing practices in your operation since you began.

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IV. APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

Current market value of **just your share** of:

	<u>Year Started Farming</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>

A. ASSETS				
1. Value of land, buildings & other improvements	\$	\$	\$	\$
2. Value of machinery & equipment	\$	\$	\$	\$
3. Value of livestock & poultry	\$	\$	\$	\$
4. Value of crops & supplies on hand	\$	\$	\$	\$
5. Value of non-farm real estate assets	\$	\$	\$	\$
6. Value of cash, stocks, bonds, other personal assets	\$	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	\$	\$	\$
B. LIABILITIES				
1. Current liabilities (less than one year)	\$	\$	\$	\$
2. Intermediate liabilities (1-7 years)	\$	\$	\$	\$
3. Long term liabilities (8 years and up)	\$	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	\$	\$	\$
NET WORTH	\$	\$	\$	\$
DEBT/ ASSET RATIO				
C. AG EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS				
1. Total Agricultural Expenses	\$	\$	\$	\$
2. Total Agricultural Receipts	\$	\$	\$	\$

Banker/Loan Officer/or Tax Accountant Signature

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IV. FINANCIAL STATEMENT (continued)

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C. Indicate other sources of income and property acquisition during the years you have been farming, such as off-farm employment, SPOUSE'S INCOME, gifts, prizes and inheritances.

D. Discuss any unusual situations, such as urban development, public highways, public works construction, discovery of mineral rights, etc that may have affected your operation.

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V. PROGRESS OF OPERATION

- A. List goals or objectives for production efficiency developed by the applicant 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, acreage increases.

SPECIFIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENT GAINED

BEGINNING GOALS	CURRENT ACHIEVEMENT	CURRENT GOALS

- B. Describe ways in which you measure and evaluate the management of your farming operation (i.e., increase/decrease in cost per acre; increase/decrease in net income per acre; debt/income ratio; debt/equity ratio).

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V. PROGRESS OF OPERATION (continued)

C. Indicate major problems connected with your operation that you have overcome or solved.

D. Indicate plans for future expansion, improvements or changes in your agricultural operation.

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VI. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

NOTE: This applies to you and your spouse, if married and applying as a married couple. Please indicate "Husband" (H) and "Wife" (W) when applicable.

- A. List leadership roles you and your spouse have fulfilled in Farm Bureau indicating service on committees, boards or as officers.

<u>COUNTY FARM BUREAU</u>	<u>YEAR(S)</u>

<u>STATE FARM BUREAU</u>	<u>YEAR(S)</u>

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VI. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)

B. Other agricultural leadership positions held by you and your spouse such as Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, REC, FSA or other farm cooperatives.

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

C. Community and Service Programs participated in by you and your spouse and leadership given. (Civic and service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.)

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

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VI. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)

D. List significant offices held or awards achieved, while participating in youth organizations.

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

E. What are your leadership goals for the next five years:

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