

South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award
Rules for 2020-21

Eligibility

- An applicant can be either an individual or married couple. The 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/spousal-equivalent shall have reached his/her 18th birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have turned 36 before January 31, 2022.
- Applicant(s) must not have derived a majority of his/her income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in any of the past three years.
- Applicant(s) may compete in either the Achievement Award or the Excellence in Agriculture Award, but not both in the same year.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of county, 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.

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 in-person presentations given on Friday, December 4, 2020 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC.
- The state winner must complete the AFBF EA application before the December 2021 deadline.
- The state winner must agree to compete in the 2022 AFBF Excellence in Ag competition, scheduled to take place at the AFBF Annual Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia, January 7-12, 2022.
- The state winner must be willing, within reason, to accept Farm Bureau leadership and or assignments between the time they are announced as winners and the time the AFBF EA application is due.

**Disclaimers for Awards & Competitions: Awards programs are subject to change. Out-of-town trips are based upon availability. Winner must agree to represent SCFB in the national competition to receive the prize package.*

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's county beyond the first-page entry form. For example, if your church name includes the town name, just use [town] Baptist Church.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.)

for questions 1-5. Applicants must use “A1” and “A2” to denote each applicant for all of question 6. A1/A2 cannot be used for questions 1-5.

- 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.
- Type within the spaces allotted. All required fields must be completed on the online application portal including required attachments.
- Each applicant should submit either a copy of their W2 or 1099 form, or a letter of verification from their employer or company on letterhead that includes length of employment and a brief description of their job responsibilities.
- Applicant(s) must submit a signed copy of the application signature page with either their county president or county secretary's signature.
- Each applicant should submit two (2) pictures (electronic file only) of his/her/their farm, family and/or involvement. The images submitted will be used for a visual presentation of finalists at the SCFB Annual Convention, but will not be used during the judging process.
- It will be up to the judges' discretion to deduct points if applications include activities before they were 18.

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

Judging

- All applications will be judged and three finalists will be announced prior to December 2020. Those who judged the written applications may not necessarily be the same judges for the presentation, but every effort is made to use the same judges.

Application

- Questions 2-4: 150 points = 37.5%
- Farm Bureau Experience: 120 points = 30%
- Other Leadership Experience and Goals: 100 points = 25%
- Application Form: 30 points = 7.5%

MAXIMUM POINTS: 400 points = 100% (80% of Total Score)

Presentation

- Delivery of Presentation: 40 points = 40%
- Content of Presentation: 30 points = 30%
- Responses to Questions: 30 points = 30%

MAXIMUM POINTS: 100 points = 100% (20% of Total Score)

Presentation Guidelines

- This will consist of a 20-minute presentation, in which the applicant(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of the entire application in presentation form with a panel of three judges. The presentation will be followed by 5 minutes of interview-style questions from the judges. The presentations will be given on Friday, December 4, 2020 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC.
- The applicant(s) has a total of 25 minutes to present the topics addressed in the application. At 20 minutes, a warning card will indicate that he/she should move on to the question and answer

session. It is up to the applicant to make this transition. No additional time will be given for questions if the applicant(s) does not stop. A card will be shown at the end of 25 minutes and time will be called and conclude the applicant's time in front of the judges.

- The only visual means in which to deliver the information is through a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation. The applicant(s) needs to submit the presentation on a USB flash drive formatted for use on a PC to the SCFB representative prior to the presentation. A computer, projector/screen, and one slide advancer remote will be provided.
- Verbal and presentation references to applicant(s) name, state and county will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props (including notes), sound or video will be allowed during the presentation.
- Applicants are not allowed to view other presentations until after they have completed their own.

Prizes

Excellence in Agriculture Award prizes are sponsored in part by the SC Farm Bureau Federation, Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company and Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

Each finalist will receive:

- \$500 cash

The winner or winning couple will receive:

- Up to \$7,000 toward the purchase of a new ATV
- An opportunity to attend the 2021 AFBF FUSION Conference in Portland, OR on March 12-15, 2021*
- A one night stay at the SCFB Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach on December 3, 2021 to be highlighted as the 2021 winner*.
- A trip to compete (required) at the 2022 American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, January 7-12, 2022*.

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Deadline

The completed and signed entry forms and online application MUST be submitted in the online award application portal no later than 4:00 pm, Sunday November 1, 2020.

2020-21 SCFB Excellence in Agriculture Award Timeline

ALL APPLICANTS	September 1, 2020	2020-2021 Applications are posted
ALL APPLICANTS	November 1, 2020	2020-2021 Applications due
ALL APPLICANTS	By November 15, 2020	EA Finalists Announced
3 FINALISTS	December 4, 2020	In-person presentations given at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC
WINNER	March 12-15, 2021	2021 AFBF FUSION Conference in Portland, OR*
WINNER	By April 2021	Winner selects & purchases new ATV
WINNER	December 3, 2021	2021 Winner recognized at 2021 SCFB Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC (one-night stay covered)*
WINNER	December 10, 2021 (approx.)	2022 AFBF Excellence in Ag Award application due
WINNER	January 7-12, 2022	2022 AFBF Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA (expense-paid)* -SC winner competes nationally