

South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award

Rules for 2022-2023 Competition

Background

The Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Excellence in Agriculture Award competition is designed as an opportunity for young farmers and ranchers to earn recognition, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, and participation/involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community). **The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who does not have the majority of his/her gross income subject to normal production risk.**

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/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 the completion of the national competition. Competitors qualify at the time the state application is submitted and the completion of the national competition is the day awards are given out (January 22, 2024)
- Applicant(s) must be in attendance on-site at the AFBF Annual Convention to compete nationally (if selected as the state winner).
- Applicant(s) must not have derived a majority of his/her gross income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in any of the past three years.
- 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.
- Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award competitors are not eligible to compete. Past state YF&R Excellence in Agriculture winners are eligible if they have not previously competed at the national level.
- 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. Past employees who were responsible for implementing any of the YF&R Competitive Events since January 1, 2018, 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):

- The state winner must complete the AFBF EA application before the December 2023 deadline.
- The state winner must agree to compete in the 2024 AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award competition, scheduled to take place at the AFBF Annual Convention held in Salt Lake City, UT, on January 19-24, 2024.
- 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 entry form. Verbal and presentation reference to applicant's name, state and county will be allowed during your presentation for personalization of presentation.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-5. "A1"/"A2" may not be used for questions 1-5. Applicants must use "A1"/"A2" to denote each applicant for all of question 6.
- 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.

- The attached entry form and application are examples of the information needed for the official online application. All applications must be submitted in the online application portal. No emailed or mailed entry forms will be accepted.
- 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 applicants include activities before they were 18.

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

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 2, 2022 at the SCFB Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, 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.

Application Judging

- All applications will be judged and three finalists will be announced by October 21, 2022. 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.
- All judges will use the application rubric to score the applications.
- The following breakdown of points will be used for the application:

<u>Application</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Approx. %</u>
Questions 2-4: *Ag Involvement, Impact on Ag and Issues Facing Ag Goals	180 points	45.0%
Farm Bureau Experience	40 points	10.0%
Other Leadership Experience	90 points	22.5%
Application Form: Writing should be clear, descriptive and free of grammatical errors.	80 points	20.0%
	10 points	2.5%
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 points	100% (80% of Total Score)

Presentation Judging

- All finalists will present during the SCFB Annual Convention.
- Competitors will present to a panel of three judges who represent the industry.
- All judges will use the same presentation rubric to score the presentations.
- The following breakdown of points will be used for the presentation:

<u>Presentation</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Approx. %</u>
Delivery of Presentation	30 points	30%
Content of Presentation	40 points	40%
Responses to Questions	30 points	30%
MAXIMUM POINTS	100 points	100% (20% of Total Score)

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
- A one night stay at the 2022 SCFB Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach on December 2, 2022
- A one night-stay at the 2023 SCFB YF&R Conference in Greenville, SC on February 4, 2023

The winner or winning couple will receive:

- Up to \$7,000 toward the purchase of a new ATV
- An opportunity to attend the 2023 AFBF FUSION Conference in Jacksonville, FL, March 3-6, 2023 *
- A one night stay at the SCFB Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach on December 1, 2023 to be highlighted as the 2023 winner*.
- A trip to compete (required) at the 2024 American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Annual Convention in Salt Lake City UT, on January 19-24, 2024.

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Deadline

The completed and signed entry forms and online application MUST be submitted in the online award application portal by October 1, 2022.

2021-2022 SCFB Excellence in Agriculture Award Timeline

ALL APPLICANTS	July 2022	2022-2023 Applications are posted
ALL APPLICANTS	October 1, 2022	2022-2023 Applications due
ALL APPLICANTS	By October 22, 2022	EA Finalists Announced
3 FINALISTS	December 2, 2022	In-person presentations given at the 2022 SCFB Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC
3 FINALISTS	February 4, 2023	Finalists recognized & Winner announced at the 2023 SCFB YF&R Conference in Greenville, SC
WINNER	March 3-6, 2023	2023 AFBF FUSION Conference in Jacksonville, FL (expense-paid)* <i>optional</i>
WINNER	By April 2023	Winner selects & purchases new ATV
WINNER	December 2, 2023	2023 Winner recognized at 2023 SCFB Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC (one-night stay covered)*
WINNER	December 10, 2023 (approx.)	AFBF Excellence in Ag Award application due
WINNER	January 19-24, 2024	2024 AFBF Annual Convention, Salt Lake City, UT (expense-paid)* <i>required</i> -SC winner competes nationally