

Rules for 2018-19 South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award

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 income subject to normal production risk.** All finalists MUST agree to complete the AFBF EA application and attend the expense paid AFBF Annual Convention held in 2019 in New Orleans, LA, January 12-15, 2019, in the event they are named the State winner(s). The State winner(s) must also be willing, within reason to accept Farm Bureau leadership and or committee appointments/assignments between the time they are announced as winners and the time the AFBF EA application is due. The SC Farm Bureau Federation (SCFB) Organization Division will coordinate the program.

Information about the Excellence in Agriculture 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/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, 2019.
- 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 only compete in one state or national YF&R Competition per year.
- Applicant(s) may compete in either the Achievement Award or the Excellence in Agriculture Award, but not both in the same 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.
- Past state YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award winners and/or previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture 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.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her state or county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's state beyond the entry form. For example, if your church name includes the name of your city or town list it as "[City] Baptist Church." Verbal and presentation reference to applicants' 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 I-V. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VI. All questions should be written in 10-point Times New Roman font.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- Recreating the application on a computer is not allowed; this includes font and format changes, such as bolding.
- The application must be properly signed with no additional pages, including no letters of recommendation, scrapbooks, visual additions, etc
- Each applicant should submit at least 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 and the YF&R Conference, but will not be used during the judging process.

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

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 1, 2017 at 1:30 pm during the SCFB Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC. A short compilation video of the finalist presentations will be displayed at the YF&R Conference on Saturday, January 27, 2018 in Greenville, 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 their presentation on a USB flash drive formatted for use on a PC to the SCFB representative prior to the presentation – or contestants may choose to use their own computer. A computer, LCD 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.

Judging

- All applications will be judged and three finalists will be announced prior to the SCFB Annual Convention in December 2016. Those who judged the written applications may not necessarily be the same judges for the presentation.

<u>Application</u>		<u>Approx. %</u>	
Questions II-IV	150 points	37.5%	
Farm Bureau Experience	120 points	30%	
Other Leadership Experience and Goals	100 points	25%	
Application Form	<u>30 points</u>	<u>7.5%</u>	
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 points	100%	(80% of Total Score)
<u>Presentation</u>			
Delivery of Presentation	40 points	40%	
Content of Presentation	30 points	30%	
<u>Responses to Questions</u>	<u>30 points</u>	<u>30%</u>	
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.

The three state finalists are required to attend the SCFB Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC on December 1, 2017 where the finalists will be announced, as well as the awards program during the SCFB Young Farmer and Rancher Conference in Greenville, SC on January 27, 2018 for the award announcement. Each finalist receives \$500 and a one night stay at the Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach and the YF&R Conference in Greenville.

The winner or winning couple will receive:

Up to \$7,000 toward the purchase of a new ATV,

An expense-paid trip to the annual AFBF YF&R Conference in Reno, NV on February 16-19, 2018,

A 1-night stay at the SCFB Annual meeting in Myrtle Beach on November 30, 2018 to be highlighted as the 2018 winner,

An expense-paid trip (required) to compete at the American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Annual meeting in New Orleans, LA, January 12-15, 2019.

Deadline

The completed and signed entry forms and applications are due into the SCFB Organization Division office not later than 5:00 pm, Sunday, October 1, 2017 (state office is not open on Sunday). They may be e-mailed to icabrera@scfb.org, faxed to 803-936-4435, mailed to PO Box 754, Columbia SC 29202, or IF delivered to the office at 724 Knox Abbott Dr., Cayce SC, please note the state office is closed on Sundays.

2017-18 SCFB Excellence in Agriculture Award Timeline

ALL APPLICANTS	June 2017	2018-2019 Applications are posted
ALL APPLICANTS	October 1, 2017	2018-2019 Applications due
ALL APPLICANTS	By November 1, 2017	EA Finalists Announced
3 FINALISTS	December 1, 2017	2017 SCFB Annual Convention, Myrtle Beach, SC (one-night stay covered) - Finalists presentations before judges & finalists recognized at award ceremony
3 FINALISTS	January 27, 2018	2018 SCFB YF&R Conference, Greenville, SC (one-night stay covered) - Finalists recognized/Winner announced (\$\$\$ Awards)
WINNER	February 16-19, 2018	2018 AFBF YF&R Conference, Reno, NV (expense-paid)
WINNER	By April 2018	Winner selects & purchases new ATV
WINNER	November 30, 2018	2018 Winner recognized at 2018 SCFB Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC (one-night stay covered)
WINNER	December 10, 2018 (approx.)	AFBF Excellence in Ag Award application due
WINNER	January 12-15, 2019	2019 AFBF Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA (expense-paid) - SC winner competes nationally

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

2018-19 Entry Form

The applicant(s) should read this entry form and application carefully before completing any part of it. The completed and signed entry forms and applications are due into the South Carolina Farm Bureau State office not later than 5:00 pm on Sunday, October 1, 2017. They may be e-mailed to jcabrera@scfb.org, faxed to 803-936-4435 mailed to PO Box 754, Columbia, SC 29202, or delivered to the office at 724 Knox Abbott Dr., Cayce, SC (October 1st falls on a Sunday and the state office is not open on Sunday).

THIS FORM IS INTENDED FOR REVIEW ONLY. Applicants MUST electronically complete this form. No handwritten applications will be accepted. Contact Betty Meadows (bmeadows@scfb.org) for a fillable form.

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and your spouse, if married. Please note that an applicant can be either an individual or a couple that is married. The applicant may choose to apply individually, rather than as a couple.

Applicant(s)*: A1 _____ A2 _____
** Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Best Daytime Phone # A1 _____ A2 _____

Email: A1 _____ A2 _____

Date of Birth: A1 _____ A2 _____

Education/Degree: A1 _____ A2 _____

Short Courses/Specialized Study: A1 _____ A2 _____

Please provide one of the following for verification purposes: (check which form you are providing)
Copy of Form 1099 or Form W-2
A letter of verification from your employer or company on letterhead that includes length of employment and a brief description of your job responsibilities

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. SCFB DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY THE INDIVIDUAL OR A COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE. SCFB 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. I (we) have not derived a majority of my (our) income from an owned production agricultural enterprise in any of the past three years. 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 SCFB, which are final and binding. This page must be printed, then signed before submitting to SC Farm Bureau.

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

I hereby certify that the above named applicant(s) is a current member in good standing with our County Farm Bureau and is eligible to be entered in and considered for SCFB's Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Award for 2018-19.

County President/Secretary: _____ Date: _____

County Chapter : _____ Member #: _____

Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Award

2018-19 Application

Note: Remember to write in first person narrative for questions I-V. Remember no state specific identifiers.

I. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests) – ***Approximately 2,000 characters***

II. **AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT**

A. Please explain the applicant(s) occupation – ***Approximately 2,500 characters.***

II. **AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT (continued) - *Approximately 2,500 characters.***

B. Please explain the applicant's (applicants') personal involvement in agriculture/agribusiness.

III. **IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE - *Approximately 2,500 characters.***

What does the applicant(s) do to positively promote and impact the agriculture industry?

IV. **ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE - *Approximately 5,000 characters.***

A. Please list and explain three important issues that agriculture needs to address in the next five years.

SAMPLE

IV. **ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE (continued) - *Approximately 5,000 characters.***

- B. Choose one of the issues in your response to IV (A) and discuss how you personally have addressed, or can address, that issue and work towards a resolution.

SAMPLE

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

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

SAMPLE

VI. 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 County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2015-2016)*

County Farm Bureau

State/American Farm Bureau

VI. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE- *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 & A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2013 – present)

- A. 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)