

Alabama Farmers Federation Agricultural Leaders for Alabama Application *Class IV*

Background

The Agricultural Leaders for Alabama program is designed to be a two-year intensive learning experience focusing on personal development, political involvement, effective communication and understanding of the Alabama Farmers Federation. This is the fourth A.L.F.A class. Previous class members now serve as county presidents, county board members, and as leaders on the county, state and national levels. This class will be comprised of six seminars scheduled over a two-year period.

Eligibility

- Applicants should apply individually. Spouses will not be selected to participate in the same class.
- Applicant must demonstrate leadership qualities and potential as evidenced by community, political or organizational activities.
- An applicant's character, reputation and personal life (as evidenced by references or inquiry) must be of the highest quality, reflecting potential leadership capability.
- Although there are no specific academic requirements, applicants must be able to demonstrate potential to contribute meaningfully to seminar sessions and perform outside assignments as required throughout the two-year program.
- Applicant shall be an Alabama Farmers Federation member between the ages of 25 and 45 in good standing with his/her county Federation.
- **Applications submitted without membership numbers and/or all signatures will not be accepted.**
- Participants in previous classes are not eligible, but applicants not previously selected are eligible to apply again.
- **Three letters of reference must be submitted with this application. Your application will not be considered unless it contains three letters. One of these letters must be from your County Farmers Federation President.**

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Applications MUST be typed.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- Recreating the application on a computer is not allowed; this includes font and format changes, such as bolding.

Expectations

- Attendance for all seminars is expected with exception of emergencies. Applicants must participate in a minimum of 85% of the program to be eligible to participate in the out-of-state agriculture experience or the session in Washington, D.C.
- **An applicant who is not self-employed must have employer approval. If you are not self-employed, please have your supervisor sign the following page and submit a letter of reference.** This letter may count as one of the required three.
- Self-employed applicants must establish their ability to be away from their enterprise for all scheduled seminars.

Selection

- Applicants are evaluated by an independent selection committee on their ability to communicate (written and verbal) their reasons for wanting to participate in the program; their understanding of industry trends and issues; their ability to serve in leadership roles; and that the nature of their interest in leadership service expands beyond self-interest and narrow perspectives.
- Full consideration will be given to all applicants. Every effort will be made to select a class, based on the applicant pool, which is representative of the entire agricultural industry, its diversity and rural community interests.
- Finalists will be selected from the initial application review and invited to participate in a personal interview. The committee will make its final recommendation based on this 20 minute interview and the application submitted.
- Applicants will be notified if they are a finalist by April 1, 2016 and will be assigned an interview time and date.
- **Interviews for finalists will be held on April 18-19, 2016. All applicants should hold these dates until you have been notified on April 1.**

Cost

- The cost for the entire program is \$5,500 per person. You are asked to cover \$1,500 of the total cost.
- Invoices will be sent to class members in mid-August and will be due by September 30, 2016. You may pay the cost yourself, or arrange sponsorship through your County Farmers Federation or another agriculture organization. You may also work with your employer to cover the cost.

Deadline

Deadline for entry is March 15, 2016. No late applications will be accepted. Applications must be received **SIGNED and complete with all pages** by March 15, 2016 at 4:00 PM CDT. Scanned copies may be emailed to jhimborg@alfafarmers.org. UPS or FedEx copies can be mailed to 2108 E. South Blvd., Montgomery, AL 36116. USPS copies may be mailed to P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Alabama Farmers Federation
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It is a great commitment to sign up for this class, but you will get out of the class what you put into it. Your attendance at every institute **for the entire institute** is expected. Those who attend a minimum of 85% of session days, including any emergencies, will be invited to attend both the out of state agriculture experience and the session in Washington, D.C.

Equally as important is promptness. By applying you agree to be prompt at all time. If an emergency occurs, it is expected that you communicate this to the class coordinator immediately, providing as much advance notice as possible.

Institutes one through four will begin at 8:30 AM on the first day listed and will conclude on the last day listed at lunch. Hotel accommodations will allow you to arrive at your convenience on the night before the first date of the session.

Institute Dates

One: June 28-July 1, 2016

Two: December 12-15, 2016

Three: February 20-24, 2017 (Montgomery)

Four: June 27-30, 2017

Five: December 8-15, 2017, January 19-26, 2018, or May 26- June 2, 2018 (out of state experience- location to be announced; dates will be selected early on and is dependent upon class members)

Six: March 5-9, 2018 or March 12-16, 2018 (Washington, D.C.)

GRADUATION: Commodity Conference 2018, dates TBA (normally late July, early August)

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

IF YOU ARE NOT SELF EMPLOYED PLEASE HAVE YOUR SUPERVISOR SIGN THIS PAGE INDICATING THEY UNDERSTAND THE AMOUNT OF TIME THIS PROGRAM REQUIRES.

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisors Name (Printed): _____

Phone Number: _____

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Applicant: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Phone: _____

Membership Number: _____ Paid thru date: _____

Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Marital Status: _____ Shirt Size (Button-Up in either M or W): _____

Education/Degree: _____

Short Courses/Specialized Study: _____

Sponsoring Organization: _____

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

1.) County Presidents Name: _____

2.) Second Letter of Reference (from a person not related to you):

Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

3.) Third Letter of Reference (from a person not related to you):

Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

I hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. AFF reserves the right to use my photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting the Alabama Farmers Federation. The photos and/or video footage of the undersigned may also be available to sponsors of events. By participating in the program, I warrant that I fully and unconditionally agree to and accept the official program rules and decisions as listed on the first page of this application. I commit to 100% attendance at all institutes and recognize that if I fail to attend without an approved excuse I will be dismissed immediately from the class with no refund. I understand these rules and the decisions made are final and binding. I give my permission to contact the references I have listed.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

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1. **PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (may include family, education and personal interests)

2. **PLEASE EXPLAIN THE APPLICANTS OCCUPATION, INCLUDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. WHAT PLAN IS IN PLACE TO ENSURE YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR JOB OR FARM FOR EACH INSTITUTE?**

3. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR SINGLE, MOST NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENT?

4. WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS IN YOUR OPERATION OR CAREER? DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE CHANGING IN THE FUTURE? IF SO, HOW?

5. WHAT DO YOU DO TO POSITIVELY PROMOTE AND IMPACT THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY?

6. PLEASE LIST AND EXPLAIN THREE IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT AGRICULTURE NEEDS TO ADDRESS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

8. WHAT ARE FOUR SPECIFIC GOALS YOU HAVE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS RELATED TO HIS/HER CAREER, FARMERS FEDERATION/FARM BUREAU INVOLVEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?

9. WHY DO YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN AN AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM? WHY DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU SHOULD BE ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS CHOSEN?