

# Alabama Farmers Federation Young Farmers Excellence in Agriculture Award

## Rules for 2020 Competitive Event

### Background

The Excellence in Agriculture Award competitive event is designed as an opportunity for young farmers to earn recognition, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Alabama Farmers Federation and agriculture. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, and participation/involvement in the Federation 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.** The winner from Alabama's program will compete at the American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held in San Diego, California in January 2021.

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. Applicant may choose to apply individually, rather than as a couple.
- Applicant(s) shall be an Alabama Farmers Federation member(s) between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with his/her county Federation. **Applications submitted without membership numbers and/or all signatures will not be accepted.**
- The individual or spouse shall not have reached his/her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday by Jan. 31, 2021
- 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 national YF&R Competitive Event per year.
- Applicant(s) may compete in either the Achievement Award (OYFF) 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 OYFF winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Past state 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 or the Alabama Farmers Federation and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.

### Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- 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.
- Applications MUST be typed.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- If applying as an individual, only include information pertinent to applicant.
- 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 letters of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions.

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

### Presentation Guidelines

- Presentations will be delivered on Saturday, August 1 during the Commodity Conference.
- The presentation will be an interactive, 25-minute interview, in which the applicant(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of his/her entire application in narrative form with a panel of three judges and the audience.
  - The applicant(s) has a total of 25 minutes to present on 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, which will 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 bring his/her presentation on a USB flash drive. All the necessary presentation equipment will be provided.
- Verbal and presentation references to applicant(s) name, state and county will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props, 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

- The applications and presentations will be judged by one set of three judges.

| Application                         |                   | Approx. %                          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Questions II-IV                     | 150 points        | 37.5%                              |
| Farm Bureau Experience              | 120 points        | 30%                                |
| Other Leadership Experience & Goals | 100 points        | 25%                                |
| Application Form                    | 30 points         | 7.5%                               |
| <b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>               | <b>400 points</b> | <b>100% (80.0% of Total Score)</b> |
| <b>Presentation</b>                 |                   |                                    |
| Delivery of Presentation            | 40 points         | 40%                                |
| Content of Presentation             | 30 points         | 30%                                |
| Responses to Questions              | 30 points         | 30%                                |
| <b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>               | <b>100 points</b> | <b>100% (20% of Total Score)</b>   |

### Deadline

Deadline for entry is June 1, 2020. No late applications will be accepted. Applications must be received **SIGNED** to the home office by June 1 at 4:00 PM CDT. Scanned copies may be emailed to [jchristenberry@alfafarmers.org](mailto:jchristenberry@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.



**Alabama Farmers Federation  
Young Farmers Excellence in Agriculture Award**

**2020 Application**

*Note: Remember to use "A1" and "A2" when referring to applicants.*

**I. PERSONAL BACKGROUND** (family, education and personal interests)

**II. AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT**

A. Please explain the applicant(s) occupation.

**II. AGRICULTURAL INVOLVEMENT (continued)**

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

**III. IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

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

**IV. ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE**

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

**IV. ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE (continued)**

- B. Choose one of the issues in your response to IV (A) and discuss how the agriculture industry should address that challenge.







V. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)**

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