

Alabama Farmers Federation Young Farmers Outstanding Young Farm Family Award

Rules for 2020 Competitive Event

Background

Each year the State Young Farmers Committee, along with the Young Farmers Division, sponsors the Outstanding Young Farm Family program in order to recognize young farm families and farmers between the ages of 18 and 35. The goal of this program is to recognize those who are doing an outstanding job on their farm, in their home and commodity activities and are working to promote a better understanding of agriculture within the urban population. Alfa Farmers and county commodity divisions also assist in the selection and honoring of the young farmers and farm families on the county level. Selection of the winning competitor is based on his/her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. Participation in this program with individual recognition and the resulting publicity will help build the organization. **The ideal candidate(s) for the Outstanding Young Farm Family competition is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks.** 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 OYFF applicant is requested on the entry form, no additional pages will be accepted. 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. The individual or spouse shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31, 2021.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her income coming from production agriculture.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one national YF&R Competitive Event per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee are not eligible to compete.
- Past state winners and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors 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.
- A previous commodity winner (or participant) is eligible to compete again.
- Counties may submit any number of applications they wish.
- **Applications received without membership numbers and/or all signatures will not be accepted.**

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 beyond the entry form.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions I-VI. Applicants must use "A1" and "A2" to denote each applicant for all of question VII.
- The entry form and application must be completed 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 letters of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions.

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

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO THE HOME OFFICE BY JANUARY 15, 2020. APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE (INCLUDING SIGNATURES AND FINANCIALS) TO BE ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. Applications must be received SIGNED to the home office by January 15 at 4:00 PM CDT. Scanned copies may be emailed to jchirstenberry@alfafarmers.org. UPS or FedEx copies can be mailed to 2108 E. South Blvd., Montgomery, AL 36116, ATTN: Young Farmers Division. USPS copies may be mailed to P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191, ATTN: Young Farmers Division.

Judging

- The entry form and application will be coded upon receipt. The applicant's name and county will not be revealed to the judges until judging is completed.
- First round judging is based on the application and the interview during the Young Farmers Conference.
- Prior to the Young Farmers Conference (held February 28-29 in Mobile) three judges will score your application. Applicants will then be interviewed on Friday, February 28. The families with the top three scores (combined score of interview and application judging) will be announced as finalists.
- In mid-July, a different set of three judges will visit the finalists' operations and select a state winner. The winner will be announced at the 2020 Commodity Conference and will be recognized at the Annual Meeting held in Montgomery in December 2020.
- Each applicant will be asked to select the commodity their farm focuses on most. After the score sheets are received back from the judges, the highest ranking entry in each commodity division will be announced as that commodity division winner. This will have no bearing on the top three finalists for the overall contest as the top three finalists are the top three scorers overall no matter what commodity they may have entered.
- Interviews will be up to 20 minutes in length and are intended to clear up any "gray areas" which may arise from the written application. Competitors should understand that their interview is for verification/clarification purposes and therefore may affect final rankings.
- During the interview process, only the named applicant(s) on the entry form is permitted into the interview. **We encourage you not to take your children into the interview** as they can easily become a distraction to both you and the judges.
- Values used in judging the applications will be:

Farm Operation and Growth:	70 points	
Financial Progress of Operation:	60 points	
Farm Bureau Leadership:	40 points	
Other Leadership:	30 points	(Agriculture = 15 points, Community = 10 points, Youth = 5 points)
Interview (If selected in Top 15)	50 points	
Total:	250 points	

**Alabama Farmers Federation
Outstanding Young Farm Family Award**

2020 Entry Form

The applicant(s) should read this entry form and application carefully before completing any part of it. **Complete applications must be received by January 15, 2020.**

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and your spouse, if married. Please indicate "Applicant 1" (A1) and "Applicant 2" (A2) when applicable.

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

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ County: _____

Membership Number: _____ Paid thru date: _____

Email: A1 _____ A2 _____

Date of Birth: A1 _____ A2 _____

Education/Degree: A1 _____ A2 _____

Short Courses/Specialized Study: A1 _____ A2 _____

Name and Ages of Children: _____

- Commodity Division: Bee and Honey Forestry Pork
SELECT ONE Beef Greenhouse, Nursery, Sod Poultry
 Catfish Hay & Forage Soybean
 Cotton Horticulture Wheat & Feed Grains
 Dairy Meat Goat & Sheep Wildlife
 Equine Peanut

I (we) hereby certify the information on this entry form and attached application to be accurate and true statements. I (we) also agree that you agree with the eligibility criteria listed on page one and that all facts in this document may be used for publication, with the exception of financial information which will be kept confidential. By participating in the Event, I (we) warrant that I (we) fully and unconditionally agree to and accept the official contest rules and the decisions of the judges and staff, which are final and binding.

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

I hereby certify that the above named applicant(s) is representing our county and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for AFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award for 2021.

County President: _____ Date: _____

III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION

A. List Major Crops*	First Year: _____	Current Year	
	No. of Acres	No. of Acres	Yield per Acre
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Indicate if irrigated*

B. Under "Volume of Production," indicate number of head, pounds, dozen or other appropriate measure of volume.

Enterprise	First Year: _____	Volume of Production	Current Year
	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Please be creative in explaining the operation if the agricultural enterprise does not fit within Sections A and B.

III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued)

D. How was the agricultural operation acquired? Indicate, in narrative form, what portion of the operation was purchased or personally earned by the applicant(s), acquired through inheritance, or acquired through partnership conversion, rental, or by a contract or management arrangement.

E. List other agricultural or related business enterprises, describing the size, relationship and importance to the total operation (i.e., custom harvesting, processing, ag tourism, etc.).

III. AGRICULTURAL OPERATION (continued)

- F. Describe significant changes, expansion or improvement in management and marketing practices, and the acquisition of agricultural machinery, equipment and irrigation systems, and/or buildings built or devised by the applicant(s) since his/her involvement in the operation began.

IV. APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Note: All information submitted is regarded as confidential, and upon completion of judging, all applications are returned to the office to be destroyed.

Current market value of the **share of just the applicant(s)** of:

A. ASSETS	First Year: _____	2018	2017	2016
1. Value of land, building & other improvements	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Value of machinery & equipment	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Value of livestock & poultry	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Value of crops & supplies on hand	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Value of non-farm real estate assets	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Value of cash, stocks, bonds, other personal assets	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Non-ag assets (primary dwelling, rental homes, etc.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL ASSETS	_____	_____	_____	_____
 B. LIABILITIES				
1. Current liabilities (less than one year)	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Intermediate liabilities	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Long-term liabilities (10 years and up)	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_____	_____	_____	_____
 NET WORTH (total assets-total liabilities)	_____	_____	_____	_____
 DEBT/ASSET RATIO (total liabilities/total assets)	_____	_____	_____	_____
 C. AG EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS				
1. Total agricultural expenses	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Total agricultural receipts	_____	_____	_____	_____
OPERATING EXPENSE RATIO (total ag expenses/total ag receipts)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please explain any situations or circumstances that may have affected the above financial numbers:

Banker/Loan Officer/Tax Accountant Signature: _____

V. **PROGRESS OF OPERATION (continued)**

B. Describe ways in which the applicant(s) measures and evaluates the management of his/her farming operation.

C. Indicate plans the applicant(s) has for future expansion, improvements or changes in the agricultural operation.

VI. **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (continued)**

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