

**Virginia Farm Bureau
2009 Young Farmers
Excellence in Agriculture Award**



Background

The Virginia Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award Program is designed as an opportunity for Young Farmers to earn recognition, while actively contributing to the progress of and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community).

The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence for Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who are non-production agriculturalists and who promote the agricultural industry through their daily work routine. Entries are judged based on applications received and finalists are judged on both applications and a Power Point presentation.

As part of the state competition, an expense-paid trip to the VFBF Annual Convention in late November 2009 will be awarded to all district winners and the state winner will be given an opportunity to compete for national honors at the AFBF Convention in January 2010.

Eligibility

- **Be nominated** for this award using an approved nomination form
- Submit a completed Excellence in Agriculture application by March 31, 2009
- District winners/Runners up must be Farm Bureau members in good standing with their county Farm Bureau.
- An applicant can be either an individual or a married couple. If married, husband and wife may apply as individuals or as co-applicants.
- Competitors are to be between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age. Individual or spouse shall not have reached their 36th birthday by January 31st after the AFBF Annual Convention at which the national competitive event is held.
- Past state Excellence in Agriculture Award winners, and/or previous AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Past state Achievement Award winners, and/or previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete.
- County, State and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible, this also includes affiliated companies.
- Only one applicant per state will be eligible to compete in the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award Program.
- Competitors may compete in either the Achievement Award or Excellence in Agriculture Award Competitive Event, but not both in the same year.
- Competitors may only compete in 1 national YF&R competitive event per year.
- **Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years. For example ag teacher, fertilizer salesperson, ag marketing, ag writer, farm employee (non-owner).**

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- **Do not use your name, name of your state, your county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of your state beyond the entry form on page 4.** Verbal and PowerPoint reference to your name, name of your state and county will be allowed during your PowerPoint presentation (see **Presentation Format** on page 3).
- The entry form and application must be in 10-point Times New Roman.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- Recreating or changing the format of the application is not allowed – current format is set up to allow for input without changing the form.
- If applying as an individual, include only information pertinent to applicant.
- Application must be properly signed with no additional pages used.
- Letters of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions are not allowed.
- Deadline for mailing entry forms for the VFBF Competitive Event is March 31st. You may submit the document digitally, by e-mailing to ron.saacke@vafb.com, however, you must send the signed page 4 to the mailing address on the form to be accepted.
- **Power Point presentations** are not needed at this time, but must be turned in during YF contest registration at VFBF Convention in late November. Power Point presentation is only needed by the nine district winners who will compete in the state competition.

Photographs (for finalists only – no need to send with initial application)

Finalists will be asked to enclose three 4" x 6" color photos including one picture of the family and two pictures of the operation. The pictures will not be used in the judging process, but will be mounted on a poster board and displayed along with a biography at various functions throughout the VFBF Annual Convention. *All pictures become the property of VFBF.* Your poster can be picked it up at the end of the VFBF convention. **Please send the photos digitally on a CD or e-mail them to ron.saacke@vafb.com. On the same CD/e-mail, please include a copy of your application.**

Judging Criteria

The applications will be judged by one set of judges in the preliminary round to choose the district winners, then the applications and the presentations will be reviewed by a two different sets of judges prior to and during the VFBF Convention according to AFBF rules.

<u>Application</u>		<u>Approx. %</u>
Questions II-IV,	120 pts.	30%
Farm Bureau Experience	100 pts.	25%
Other Leadership Experience	140 pts.	35%
Additional Awards and Recognition		
Application Form: (e.g., neatness, readability, Following instructions)	40 pts.	<u>10%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 pts.	100%

Presentation (Finalists only)

Overall Presentation	100 pts.	50%
Personal Growth and Development (Accomplishments)	50 pts.	25%
Leadership Involvement (Farm Bureau & other organizations)	50 pts.	<u>25%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	200 pts.	100%

Total Score

Application	400 pts.	66.7%
Presentation	200 pts.	<u>33.3%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	600 pts.	100%

Presentation Format (not needed for initial application --- presentations will be completed by nine district winners only)

The presentation will be an interactive interview in which the competitor(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of their application in narrative form. The only visual means in which to deliver the presentation is through a PowerPoint presentation. All the necessary presentation equipment will be provided for the contestant(s). The contestant(s) needs to bring their presentation on a CD (to be turned in at registration). The presentation will be given to a panel of three judges. The guidelines for the presentation are as follows:

- Introduction and presentation - (**maximum of 12 slides***) 15 minutes on the issues addressed in the application as well as past and present accomplishments and future goals. *moving bullet point into the slides is permitted and will not be counted as an additional slide.
- Question and answer session - 10 minutes (time card will be displayed at 10 minutes)
- Verbal and Power Point references to your name, state and county will be allowed during presentations.
- Dress should be business attire
- No props allowed other than the Power Point and no sound is allowed

Awards**VFB State winner: (subject to change)**

Kubota utility vehicle – 1 year lease courtesy of Kubota with lease payoff up to \$5,000, courtesy of Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, a chainsaw from Stihl, \$500 from Dodge and an expense paid trip to the AFBF convention and competition in January 2010.

American Farm Bureau winner:

The winner of the Excellence in Agriculture Award will receive a 2010 “nicely equipped” Dodge Ram 1500, as well as paid registration to the 2010 YF&R Leadership Conference in February 2010. Each of the runners-up will receive a \$6,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a Farm Boss chainsaw on behalf of Stihl.

VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
2009 ENTRY FORM
YOUNG FARMERS EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

Please read the form carefully before filling out any part of it. The state winner's entry form and application must be received on or before March 31, 2009 at Virginia Farm Bureau, W&YF Dept., P. O. Box 27552, Richmond, VA 23261.

NOTE: This applies to you and your spouse, if married. Please indicate "Husband" (H) and "Wife" (W) when applicable.

1. Applicant(s): _____
(As it will be used in the program & recognition)

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

2. Address: _____

3. City & State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

4. Date of Birth: H _____ W _____ Age: H _____ W _____

5. Education/Degree: H _____ W _____

Short courses or other specialized study: _____

6. Number of children: _____ Age(s) : _____

7. Please provide one of the following for verification purposes:

_____ copy of 1099 or W-2 form

_____ A letter of recommendation 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, made to the best of our ability. **VFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** VFBF reserves the right to use your photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. The photos and/or video footage of undersigned contestant may also be available to sponsors of Farm Bureau events. I have not derived a majority of my income from production agriculture in any of the past three years.

Applicant(s)

I hereby certify that the above named applicant is a member in good standing in this County Farm Bureau and is eligible to be entered in the competition for the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers Excellence in Agriculture Award.

_____ Date _____
County President/Secretary

VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
2009 ENTRY FORM
YOUNG FARMERS EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Give 5 to 8 lines description of you and your work/life *to be used for display purposes and contest promotion.*

2009 APPLICATION
YOUNG FARMERS EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

I. Personal Background – (***no references to county, state, names, etc. past this point***)

Married Single Children _____

Education Level _____

II. A. How is your occupation involved in agriculture/agribusiness?

B. Please explain your personal involvement in production agriculture: (daily, seasonal)

III. What opportunities exist for you to have a positive impact on agriculture?

IV. List and explain three important issues that agriculture needs to address in the next 5 years -- include your role in addressing these issues.

V. Farm Bureau Experience

NOTE: This applies to you and your spouse, if married. Please indicate "Husband" (H) and "Wife" (W) when applicable.

List leadership roles you and your spouse have fulfilled in Farm Bureau indicating service on committees, boards or as officers.

<u>COUNTY FARM BUREAU</u>	<u>YEARS</u>

<u>STATE/AMERICAN FARM BUREAU</u>	<u>YEARS</u>

VI. Leadership Experience

- A. Other agricultural leadership positions held by you and your spouse such as Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, REC, FSA or other farm cooperatives.

ORGANIZATION

LEADERSHIP ROLE

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

- B. Community and Service Programs participated in by you and your spouse and leadership given. (Civic and service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.)

ORGANIZATION

LEADERSHIP ROLE

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

VI. Leadership Experience (continued)

- C. List significant offices held or awards achieved while participating in youth organizations.

ORGANIZATION

LEADERSHIP ROLE

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP ROLE</u>

- D. What additional award(s) and recognition have you received in the past?
- E. What are your leadership goals for the next five years and what are your plans to achieve these goals?