

**WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU
2009 YFA
EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD**

The WFBF YFA Committee is pleased to announce the 2009 YFA Excellence in Agriculture Award. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, GROWMARK, Inc., and Rural Insurance Companies are proud to sponsor the following awards:

AFBF ANNUAL MEETING IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The Excellence in Agriculture winner and spouse will be awarded transportation, lodging and registration costs toward competing in the AFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Excellence in Agriculture contest. They will also participate in the recognition and awards program at the AFBF Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington on January 9-12, 2010.

WFBF YFA WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP

The WFBF state winner and spouse will have the opportunity to take part in the WFBF YFA Washington D.C. trip on April 10-14, 2010. Included in the trip is airfare, lodging while in Washington D.C., sight-seeing tours, and some meals. The participants will meet with their congressional delegation, other top governmental officials and the AFBF Washington Staff. A modest fee of \$150/person is charged to trip participants.

GROWMARK, INC. ANNUAL MEETING

Participants will receive a \$50 FS gift certificate. The WFBF state winner and spouse will be the guests of GROWMARK, Inc. at its annual meeting in Chicago on September 2-3, 2010. The winner will also receive a \$250 gift certificate to use toward the purchase of FS products or as payment for a WFBF Farm Bureau event.

2010 WFBF YFA CONFERENCE/ANNUAL MEETING

The WFBF state winner and spouse will be the guests of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation at the WFBF YFA Conference/Annual Meeting December 3-6, 2010.

You may download the Excellence in Agriculture Award form from the web at www.wfbf.com.

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
YFA
Excellence in Agriculture Award
Rules for the 2009 WFBF YFA Conference/Annual Meeting Competitive Event**

Background

The Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award Program is designed as an opportunity for YFAs, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture, to earn recognition. 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 in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who do not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risk.**

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

- Applicants should be 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.
- Applicant(s) must be a voting Farm Bureau member or Farm Bureau member family.
- Competitors shall be Farm Bureau members 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 Competitive Event is held.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Committee or their spouses are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R 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 affiliate 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 Program Competitive Event, but not both in the same year.
- Only one person per family or household can win a WFBF YFA contest in any given year. Participants can enter more than one contest, but can only be a state winner in one contest.

- 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. Verbal and PowerPoint reference to your name, name of your state and county will be allowed during your PowerPoint presentation (see presentation format - page 4).
- The entry form and application must be in 10-point Times New Roman.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- Redoing the application on a computer/word processor is not allowed.
- Please indicate if you are applying as a couple or as individual.
- If applying as an individual, only include information pertinent to applicant.
- Application must be properly signed with no additional pages used.
- Letter of recommendation (OK if submitted for requirement on page 6), scrapbooks or other visual additions will be terms for disqualification.
- Your application must include one additional page with an outline of your presentation or a copy of your PowerPoint slides.

Examples of some of the appropriate wording to use are as follows:

NOT ACCEPTABLE

University of Wisconsin
 Calumet County Farm Bureau
 La Crosse United Methodist Church
 Wisconsin Farm Bureau YF Chairman
 Wisconsin FFA Association

ACCEPTABLE

State University
 County Farm Bureau
 United Methodist Church
 State Farm Bureau YF Chairman
 State FFA Association

Photos

Please email Dale Beaty at dbeaty.fbcenter@wfbf.com with three digital 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 displayed at the WFBF YFA Conference/Annual Meeting. All pictures become the property of WFBF.

Judging Criteria

The applications and presentations will be judged by a panel of three judges. The application and entry form of the county winners will be coded upon being received at the WFBF office. Only a code number will identify the applicants and their county and the identity of winners will not be revealed until the final selections have been determined. **The four finalists will be notified by October 30, 2009.** The **four finalists** will be required to give a power point presentation at the WFBF YFA Conference/Annual Meeting at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells on Saturday, December 5, 2009.

<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, outline)	40 pts.	<u>10%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	400 pts.	100%
<u>Presentation (Top Four Finalists)</u>		
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%
<u>Total Score</u>		
Application	400 pts.	67%
Presentation	200 pts.	<u>33%</u>
MAXIMUM POINTS	600 pts.	100%

Presentation Format

The **four finalists'** presentations will be an interactive interview in which the competitor(s) has an opportunity to share the contents of their application in a narrative form. The only visual means in which to deliver the presentation is through a PowerPoint presentation. **The four finalists must submit their PowerPoint presentation on a CD to Dale M. Beaty by November 13, 2009.** All the necessary presentation equipment will be provided for the contestant(s). 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 points 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 PowerPoint references to your name, state and county will be allowed during presentations.
- Dress should be business attire
- No props allowed
- No sound allowed in PowerPoint presentation

Deadline & Address

The application **MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2009** to be considered for state recognition and awards. **APPLICATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Mail all required application materials to:

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Excellence in Agriculture Award Application
ATTN: Dale M. Beaty
P.O. Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705-0550**

Save Your Information

The WFBF state Excellence in Agriculture winner's application will be sent to AFBF to compete in the national Excellence in Agriculture contest. The AFBF national application is slightly different than the WFBF application. The AFBF application is due shortly after the WFBF Annual Meeting; thus, it is imperative that each contestant save their information, so if they are selected as the WFBF state winner, their information can be quickly and easily transferred to the AFBF national application.

Where to find an Application

This application can be obtained on a write-protected CD from your Field Supervisor/District Coordinator or it can be downloaded from the YFA page at www.wfbf.com. To maintain the integrity of the form, you may not recreate this application on a computer/word processor. Information contained in the entry form and application is considered confidential and will be destroyed after the WFBF YFA Conference/Annual Meeting.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the application or the contest rules, feel free to contact your local field supervisor or Dale M. Beaty, Director, Training & Leadership Development at (608) 828-5714 or at dbeaty.fbcenter@wfbf.com.

WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
2009 ENTRY FORM
YFA EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

The applicant should carefully read through this entry form and application before filling out any part of it. The application **MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2009** to be considered for state recognition and awards. **APPLICATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

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

1. Applying As: Single: _____ Couple: _____

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

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

3. County: _____

4. Address: _____

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

6. Email: _____

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

8. Education/Degree: H _____ W _____

Short courses or other specialized study: _____

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

10. 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. **WFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY AN INDIVIDUAL AND/OR COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** WFBF 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)

WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
2009 ENTRY FORM
YFA EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Give 5 to 8 lines description to be used for display purposes throughout the WFBF YFA Conference/Annual Meeting.

Please email Dale Beaty at dbeaty.fbcenter@wfbf.com with three digital 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 displayed at the WFBF YFA Conference/Annual Meeting. All pictures become the property of WFBF.

2009 APPLICATION
YFA EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

I. Personal Background

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.

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

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- 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

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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?