

# South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award

## Rules for 2024-2025 Competition

### Background

The South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation (SCFB) annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competition. Selection of the winning YF&R competitor is based on his/her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. **The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.**

### Eligibility

**The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her gross income subject to farm and/or ranch risks.**

- An applicant can be either an individual or a couple that is married or has similar legal rights under the law applicable to the state Farm Bureau organization. Applicant may choose to apply individually, rather than as a couple.
- Applicant(s) shall be a Farm Bureau member(s) between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with his/her county Farm Bureau. The individual or spouse/spousal-equivalent shall have reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the state competition and shall not have reached his/her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday by the completion of the national competition. Competitors qualify at the time the State application is submitted and the completion of the national competition is the day awards are given out (January 12, 2026)
- Applicant(s) must be in attendance on-site at the AFBF Annual Convention to compete nationally.
- Applicant(s) must be actively engaged in farming and/or ranching, with the majority of his/her gross income coming from production agriculture. Applicant(s) must have at least three years of financial records showing that the majority of income came from production agriculture.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one national YF&R Competition per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Previous AFBF Achievement Award competitors are not eligible to compete. Past state YF&R Achievement Award winners are eligible if they have not previously competed at the national level.
- Current employees or agents of county, state and/or the American Farm Bureau organizations and their affiliates are not eligible to compete. An affiliate is defined as an entity owned or controlled in whole or in part by another entity through, for example, ownership (including partial ownership) or positions on the board of directors. Past employees and interns who were responsible for implementing any of the YF&R Competitive Events since January 1, 2018 at the state or national level are ineligible.

### Agreement

All applicants **MUST** agree to the following, in the event they are named a finalist or the State winner(s):

- The state winner must complete the AFBF AA application before the December 2025 deadline.
- The state winner must agree to compete in the 2026 AFBF Achievement Award competition, scheduled to take place at the AFBF Annual Convention held in Anaheim, CA, on January 9-13, 2026.
- The state winner must be willing, within reason, to accept Farm Bureau leadership and or assignments between the time they are announced as the State winner(s) and the time the AFBF AA application is due.

*\*Disclaimers for Awards & Competitions: Awards programs are subject to change. Out-of-town trips are based upon availability. Winner must agree to represent SCFB in the national competition to receive the prize package.*

## **Entry Form & Application Guidelines**

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of his/her county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's county beyond the entry form.
- The entry form and application must be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, etc.) for questions 1-9 and 13. "A1"/"A2" may not be used for questions 1-9 and 13. Applicants must use "A1"/"A2" to denote each applicant for all of question 10-12.
- The Financial Success section must be typed and notarized; handwritten financial forms will be disqualified. If the notarization includes a county identifier such as county name or seal, the identifier needs to be blacked-out.
- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms, unless it has been spelled out once with the abbreviation in parentheses behind it. For example, United States Department of Education (USDE). AFBF, FB, and YF&R are acceptable to use throughout the application.
- The attached entry form and application is an example of the information needed for the official online application. No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted.
- It will be up to the judges' discretion to deduct points if applicants include activities before they were 18.

**Note: Disregard of the guidelines will result in disqualification of the application.**

## **Judging**

- The entry form and application of each entry will be coded upon receipt by SCFB. The applicant's name will not be revealed to the judges until judging is completed.
- Judging is based on the application and an on-farm interview that will be scheduled in November 2024.
- A panel of three qualified judges will select the finalists and state winner. The top three competitors will be visited by the same three judges who reviewed the written applications.
- A panel of four qualified judges will select the national winners. The Top 10 competitors will be interviewed by the same four judges who reviewed the written applications.
- On-farm visits will last no longer than 2 hours and are intended to clear up any "gray areas" which may arise from the written application. The three finalists should understand that their on-farm visit by the judges is for verification/clarification purposes and therefore may affect final rankings.

## **Scoring:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points</b>
1. Personal Background	10
2. Scope of Farm/Ranch	15
3. Growth & Achievements	25
4. Management Decisions	15
5. Goals & Planning	10
6. Resiliency	10
7. Financial Success Part 1: Debt-to-Asset Ratio and Profit	25
8. Financial Success Part 2: Analysis and Record Keeping	15
9. Financial Success Part 3: Off-Farm Income	10
10. Leadership Experience: Farm Bureau	30
11. Leadership Experience: Other Ag Organizations	10
12. Leadership Experience: Other	10
13. Leadership Growth and Development	10
Total application Points	195
14. On-Farm Judging (Top 3 competitors only)	5
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>200</b>

## Prizes

Achievement Award prizes are sponsored in part by the SC Farm Bureau Federation and Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company.

Three finalists will receive:

- \$1,000 cash
- A one-night stay at the 2024 SCFB Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach on December 6, 2024
- A one-night stay at the 2025 SCFB YF&R Conference in Hilton Head Island, SC on February 8, 2025

The winner or winning couple will receive:

- \$35,000 towards the purchase of a new Ford truck
- An opportunity to attend the 2025 AFBF Fusion Conference in Denver, CO, March 7-10, 2025\*
- A one-night stay at the SCFB Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach on December 5, 2025 to be highlighted as the 2025 winner\*.
- A trip to compete (required) at the 2026 American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Annual Convention in Anaheim, CA on January 9-13, 2026\*.

\*Disclaimers for Awards & Competitions: *Awards programs are subject to change. Out-of-town trips are based upon availability. Winner must agree to represent SCFB in the national competition to receive the prize package.*

## Deadline

**The completed and signed entry forms and online application MUST be submitted in the online award application portal no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.**

### 2024-2025 SCFB Achievement Award Timeline

<b>ALL APPLICANTS</b>	April 2024	2024-25 Applications Available
<b>ALL APPLICANTS</b>	October 1, 2024	2024-25 Applications Due
<b>ALL APPLICANTS</b>	October 22, 2024	2024-25 Finalists Announced
<b>3 FINALISTS</b>	Between November 5-9, 2024	On-Farm Judging
<b>3 FINALISTS</b>	December 6, 2024	Finalists recognized at SCFB Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC
<b>3 FINALISTS</b>	February 8, 2025	Finalists recognized & Winner announced 2024 SCFB YF&R Conf. in Hilton Head, SC
<b>WINNER</b>	March 7-10, 2025	2024 AFBF Fusion Conference in Denver, CO (expense-paid)* <i>optional</i>
<b>WINNER</b>	By April 2025	Winner selects & purchases new truck
<b>WINNER</b>	December 5, 2025	2025 Winner recognized at 2025 SCFB Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC (one-night stay covered)*
<b>WINNER</b>	December 9, 2025 (approx.)	AFBF Achievement Award application due (required)
<b>WINNER</b>	January 9 - 13, 2026	2026 AFBF Annual Convention Anaheim, CA (expense-paid)* <i>required</i> -SC winner competes nationally

**South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award**

**2024-2025 Entry Form**

**THIS FORM IS INTENDED FOR REVIEW ONLY.**

The applicant(s) should read this entry form and application carefully before completing any part of it.

**The application must be submitted online no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday, October 1, 2024.**

**All applications MUST be completed in the online award application portal. No emailed or paper applications will be accepted.**

The data below and throughout the application applies to you and your spouse/spousal-equivalent, if married. Please indicate "Applicant 1" (A1) and "Applicant 2" (A2) on question 10-12.

Applicant(s)\*: A1: \_\_\_\_\_ A2: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: A1: \_\_\_\_\_ A2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Daytime Phone: A1 \_\_\_\_\_ A2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: A1 \_\_\_\_\_ A2 \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: A1 \_\_\_\_\_ A2 \_\_\_\_\_

Education/Degree: A1 \_\_\_\_\_ A2 \_\_\_\_\_

Short Courses/Specialized Study: A1 \_\_\_\_\_ A2 \_\_\_\_\_

**South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award  
2024 - 2025 Application**

**1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

- a. Briefly tell us about yourself, your family, education, and personal interests.  
**Up to 2,000 characters**

SAMPLE

- b. Please describe your farm/ranch including how you acquired it, acres owned and rented, years in operation, crops and livestock. **Up to 2,000 characters**

SAMPLE

- c. List any other related business enterprises and their relationship to/importance in the total farm/ranch. **Up to 1,500 characters**

- d. Tell us about how you advocate for agriculture. **Up to 1,500 characters**

## 2. SCOPE OF YOUR FARM OR RANCH

- a. Explain the ownership structure of your farm/ranch and your vested interest. Please include all enterprises in your explanation, if applicable. **Up to 2,000 characters**

SAMPLE



- b. What percentage of the farm/ranch management decisions are you responsible for? Please break down for each enterprise, if applicable. **Up to 1,250 characters – 10 lines**

<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>% Management Decisions</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- c. Please add any additional information that helps explain the previous two responses, if needed. **Up to 1,000 characters**

SAMPLE

- d. Describe your role in the operation. Explain specifically your duties and decision-making responsibilities.  
**Up to 2,000 characters**

SAMPLE

### 3. GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- a. Please tell the story of your farm growth since your first year of owning/managing your farm/ranch. Where were you then and where are you now? Use specific examples to show how your operation has grown and highlight your contributions to the success of the operation over time. **Up to 3,000 characters**

SAMPLE

- b. List and describe any production efficiency growth you have achieved since your first year of owning/managing your farm/ranch. **Up to 2,500 characters**

SAMPLE

#### 4. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Please explain how your understanding of the market has led you to create strategies that make your operation thrive and ensure its success now and into the future. Discuss up to two impactful strategic or management decisions you have made on your farm/ranch, why you made them, and the changes that resulted from implementing those decisions. **Up to 3,500 characters**

SAMPLE

**5. GOALS & PLANNING**

Moving forward, what short-term and long-term goals do you have for your farm/ranch? Explain how you plan to achieve these goals. **Up to 2,500 characters**

SAMPLE

## 6. RESILIENCY

- a. Describe any major business challenges your farm/ranch has encountered and what you did to overcome them. (i.e., policy, financial, family, management, etc.) **Up to 2,000 characters**

SAMPLE

- b. Describe the transition or succession plan(s) you have for your farm/ranch. If you do not have either, please explain. **Up to 1,500 characters**

SAMPLE



**7. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 1**

*NOTE: In considering financial situation, judges will consider the whole application and how the financials are connected to the history, goals and strategies of the farm/ranch. Financials are not to be evaluated independent of the other sections.*

- a. Using the grid below, please show your debt-to-asset ratio, including farm/ranch/personal debts and assets for each year requested:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Debt</b> (combined farm/ranch and personal debt)	<b>Total Assets</b> (combined farm/ranch and personal assets)	<b>Debt to Asset Ratio</b> (total debt divided by total assets)
First year (____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
Current year projection			

Please indicate whether the above reflects:

- the portion of the farm/ranch you own, as indicated in 2(a).

OR

- the portion of the farm/ranch for which you make management decisions *if more than the amount you own*, as indicated in 2(b).

Give an explanation of related irregularities or strategies, if needed: **Up to 1,000 characters**

- b. Using the grids below, please show total **farm/ranch** income, expenses and net profit for each year requested. *This should reflect anything related to the farm/ranch business(es) described in the application regardless of marketing practices, production methods or sources.*

**TOTAL INCOME = Farm/Ranch Income + All other income related to the farm/ranch business(es)**

**Other Income Examples:** farm bill payments, trade aid, conservation payments, net crop insurance benefits, and/or income derived from the marketing or selling of farm/ranch products/services such as specialty marketing, agritourism, etc. *(do not include off-farm or other enterprises that are unrelated to the farm/ranch operation)*

Year	Farm/Ranch Income	+ All other farm/ranch-related income	= Total Income
First year (____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
Current year projection			

**TOTAL EXPENSES = Farm/Ranch Expenses + Interest + Depreciation**

Year	Farm/Ranch Expenses	+ Interest	+ Depreciation	= Total Expenses
First year (____)				
3 years ago				
2 years ago				
1 year ago				
Current year projection				

**NET PROFIT = Income - Expenses**

Year	Total Income	- Total Expenses	= Net Profit
First year (____)			
3 years ago			
2 years ago			
1 year ago			
Current year projection			

Please indicate whether the above reflects:

- the portion of the farm/ranch you own, as indicated in 2(a).

OR

- the portion of the farm/ranch for which you make management decisions *if more than the amount you own*, as indicated in 2(b).

Give an explanation of related irregularities or strategies, if needed: **Up to 1,000 characters**

**8. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 2**

- a. Describe the practices you use to evaluate the financial success of your farm/ranch, including ratios or analysis, record keeping systems and/or advisors used to support successful financial management. **Up to 2,000 characters**

SAMPLE

- b. Describe where you see your greatest financial strengths and weaknesses in your farm/ranch business.  
**Up to 2,000 characters**

SAMPLE

**9. FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Part 3**

- a. Do you have any other **farm/ranch business** income not otherwise shown in the financials section (such as supporting agri-businesses)? If so, how is that income used? **Up to 1,000 characters**

- b. Is any **off-farm** income earned by you or your spouse and how is that income used? **Up to 1,000 characters**

- c. What **additional income**, if any, from inheritances, winnings, etc. did the applicant(s) accept and how is/was it used? **Up to 1,000 characters**

SAMPLE

**10. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: FARM BUREAU (from age 18 to current)**

*Note: This applies to both applicants, if applying together. Please indicate A1 and A2 when applicable.*

List Farm Bureau leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers. Please include years and level of involvement (county, state, national).

*Example: A1 – Elected President of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (2018-2019) Up to 2,500*

**characters per section**

**County Farm Bureau**

**State/American Farm Bureau**

SAMPLE

**11. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS (from age 18 to current) –**

List other agricultural leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, adult roles in 4-H or FFA) *Example: A1 and A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2018 – present)* **Up to 2,500 characters**

SAMPLE



**12. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: OTHER (from age 18 to current) -**

List other community and non-agricultural leadership roles, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant, including service on committees, boards or as officers (i.e. Chamber of Commerce, civic/service clubs, church, school, scouts, coaching, etc.) *Example: A1 – Local Elementary School, Served as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President (2018-2020)* **Up to 2,500 characters**

SAMPLE

### 13. LEADERSHIP GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- a. Describe actions you have taken to better yourself as a leader or businessperson. Be specific.  
**Up to 2,500 characters**

SAMPLE

- b. Describe your most impactful leadership experience and any actions you have taken to better yourself as a leader or businessperson. **Up to 2,500 characters**

SAMPLE

c. Describe your goals for leadership growth and development. **Up to 1,500 characters**

SAMPLE