

For reference only – must submit via the online application portal

**Indiana Farm Bureau
Rising Star Application
For use in the 2025 Indiana Farm Bureau Contest**

Background

The Rising Star Award is designed to honor an outstanding individual or couple, who are members of Indiana Farm Bureau. The award recognizes Young Farmers & Ag Professionals who are active in Farm Bureau, their county, their community, are leaders through the Collegiate and/or YF&AP programs, and/or display personal and professional growth by participating in those activities. The ideal candidate(s) for the Rising Star Award is an individual or couple who is active in both Farm Bureau and their community, and displays current personal and professional growth, as well as personal and professional goals for the future.

Eligibility:

- Must be a voting member of Indiana Farm Bureau between the ages of 18 and 30.
- Applicants can be individuals or a couple.
- Applicant(s) may only compete in one YF&AP Award (Rising Star, Excellence in Ag, Achievement Award) each year. Previous winners of the Rising Star Award may apply for the Excellence in Ag or Achievement Award in a future year.
- Present members of the INFB YF&AP State Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Applicant(s) chosen as a Rising Star Award winner may not compete in the Discussion Meet contest during the same year.

Contest Structure

- All applicants will complete the written application (must submit it via the online portal). The finalists (top 3) will be required to deliver an oral presentation.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- Do not use applicant's name, the name of their state or county, or any names that may bring about the recognition or identification of the applicant's county beyond the entry form. The written versions of the application have a search feature to locate any identifiers. Verbal and presentation reference to applicant's name, state and county will be allowed during your presentation for personalization of presentation.
- The entry form and application should be completed in first person narrative (i.e. I, me, we, us), but proper names of the applicant(s) may not be used. Couple applications should follow these instructions: For personal statements, put (A1) or (A2) at the beginning of the paragraph/sentence to denote which applicant is "speaking," and for joint statements, simply use the word "we." Applicants must use (A1)/(A2) to denote each applicant's involvement for all of question 6.
- 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&AP, INFB are acceptable to use throughout the application.
- No emailed or mailed entry forms will be accepted. This document is meant to be a reference only. All applications must be submitted via the online portal.

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- It will be up to the judges' discretion to deduct points if applicants include activities before they were 18.

Presentation Guidelines

- The presentation and interview will be a combined, 20-minute allotment, in which the applicant(s) has/have an opportunity to share the contents of his/her/their entire application in narrative form with a panel of three judges and the audience.
- Applicant(s) will have up to 20 minutes to present on the topics addressed in the application and address questions from the judges. Applicants will be notified by the timekeeper when 10 minutes are remaining and again when five minutes are remaining. Each judge will be prepared to ask at least one question. At 20 minutes, time will be called and the applicant's time in front of the judges will conclude even if the judges have not been able to ask their questions. It will be up to the applicant(s) to determine how they use this time. If the answers to the judges' questions are complete before time is called, the room moderator will call time.
- The only visual means by which to deliver the information is through a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation. The applicant(s) needs to submit their presentation on a USB flash drive before the day of the presentation. Once the presentation has been downloaded onto the laptop, it cannot be changed. A computer, LCD projector, screen and one slide advancer remote will be provided. All presentations must be formatted to work on a PC. Contestants will not be allowed to use their own computers.
- Verbal and presentation references to applicant(s) name, state and county will be allowed during the presentation.
- No props (including notes), sound or video of any kind will be allowed during the presentation.

Acknowledgement of Eligibility:

I have read and understand the eligibility requirements for this award. To the best of my knowledge, I am eligible to compete in the award area.

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Questions

Are you applying as an individual or as a couple? (select one)

Applicant 1 (A1): _____

Applicant 2 (A2): (if applying as a couple): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (A1): _____ Phone (A2): _____

Email (A1): _____ Email (A2): _____

Date of Birth (A1): _____ Date of Birth (A2): _____

Education: (A1) _____ Education (A2) _____

1. **Personal Background** (family, education, and personal interests) *recommended characters: 2,000*
2. **Agricultural Involvement**
 - a. Please explain the applicants occupation and involvement in agriculture/agribusiness – *recommended characters: 3,500*
3. **Growth & Development**
 - a. Clearly explain growth, development, and improvements you have had personally or have made within organizations that you are involved in. Examples could include implementing a new program or activity within an organization, learning a new skill, etc. – recommended characters: 5,000
4. **Issues Facing Agriculture**
 - a. Agriculture faces important issues at the local, state, national and international levels. Explain three important issues that the industry needs to address in the next five years. Choose one issue from three of the four levels mentioned above. For example, an applicant might select ag literacy as a local issue, mental health as a state issue and rural broadband as a national issue. – *recommended characters: 5,000*
 - b. Choose one of the issues in your response to 4A and discuss how you personally have addressed, or can address, that issue and work towards a resolution – *recommended characters: 5,000*
5. **Goals**
 - a. What goals does the applicant(s) have for the next five years related to their career, Farm Bureau involvement and involvement with other organizations? What steps have been made to reach these goals? – *recommended characters: 5,000*
 - b. What personal goals does the applicant(s) have for the next five years, unrelated to Farm Bureau involvement? What steps have been made to reach these goals – *recommended characters: 5,000*
6. **Leadership Experience**

(From age 18 to current. Indicate A1, A2, or Both when applicable)

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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 (2020-2021)

a. County Farm Bureau

b. State/American Farm Bureau

c. Leadership in other agricultural organizations

List other agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers. (i.e. Farm Credit, Soil Conservation, Farm Service Agency, farm cooperatives, 4-H, etc.). Please include organization, description and years of involvement. Example: A1 & A2 – 4-H, Serves as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader (2019 – present)

d. Other leadership experience

List other community and non-agricultural leadership roles, involvement opportunities, recognitions and/or awards received by the applicant(s), indicating service on committees, boards or as officers (i.e. civic/service clubs, church, school, volunteer leadership, etc.) Please include organization, description and years of involvement. Example: A1 – Local Elementary School, Served as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President (2018-2021)