

DISTRICT, STATE, NATIONAL PROGRAMS

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DISTRICT MEETINGS

Meetings of each district are planned by the district representatives and officers for the current year. Regional Field Staff are to be contacted for assistance. Locations, time and details for the event must be provided by district representative to Scarlett Copeland (scopeland@tbf.com) at least two weeks in advance of meeting.

Some of the main advantages of district activities are to give leadership experience to a larger number of individuals and provide wider opportunities for many who are unable to attend statewide events.

All district activities are planned and carried out by district officers with the help of district representatives on the State Committee. It is the responsibility of the state committee to assist district officers in carrying out all district functions and to report the activities of the state committee and upcoming YF&R state events.

WINTER/SPRING

Winter/Spring District Meetings are organized and scheduled by the Districts as needed.

SUMMER

Summer district meetings are held at various times during the summer months. Fun, fellowship and recreation are usually in abundance at summer meetings with activities such as boating, skiing, camping, swimming, picnicking, ice cream suppers, camp-fires, ball games, and other sports.

Programs such as the Young Farmers Conference, Young Farmer of the Year and Educational Tours along with individual member's farming operations are also discussed.

FALL

October/November is the ideal time to hold the Annual Fall District Meetings. At this meeting, the District Discussion Meet Warm-Up should be held, election of district officers, review county activity reports, and make plans for the state convention and national convention.

AFBF YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Meeting for young farmers is held in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention. The outgoing and incoming YF&R Chairman, 1st and 2nd place Outstanding Young Farmer winners and spouses, 1st and 2nd place Excellence in Agriculture winners and spouses, and 1st and 2nd place Discussion Meet winners and spouses are eligible to attend this conference. All expenses are paid by the Tennessee Farm Bureau for current contest winners, outgoing and incoming YF&R Chairman and spouses. Your county is encouraged to register additional attendees through your county Farm bureau office.

The Annual AFBF Young Farmer Achievement Award, Excellence in Agriculture, and Discussion Meet Contests are held during the National Convention. One state winner from each contest will compete against other state winners for the National Title and grand prizes.

The YF&R Chairmen, state award winners and spouses have the opportunity to serve as voting delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation General Business Session and the AFBF Women's Business Session. This is where the American Farm Bureau organizational and procedural policy is made for the current year.

Delegates to the AFBF Annual meeting also have the opportunity to hear from our nation's leaders and top agricultural advisors. In the past, speakers have been U.S. Presidents, Senators and Representatives, cabinet members, Secretary's of Agriculture, foreign leaders, economists, and agricultural technology and policy experts.

YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

Young Leaders Conference is held each year in late January/early February. The Young Leaders Conference provides exciting programs with emphasis on leadership training, motivation, learning about cooperatives and how they work, and YF&R activities. A program will also include the presentation of the County Presentation Awards. The conference also has programs devoted to Farm Bureau Legislative and Educational Programs. In addition, there are education programs through cooperation with the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service. There are also opportunities for recreational and social activities and fellowship with other delegates. Complete details of the Young Leaders Conference are sent to county YF&R chairmen & secretaries and Farm Bureau and Extension Advisors prior to the conference.

The University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation assists the State Committee in providing the conference with personnel and guidance. **It is suggested that each county send as many of its young farmers and spouses as possible.** A minimum of two representatives is suggested. If this is properly discussed with the county Farm Bureau Board of Directors and other interested agricultural leaders, scholarships to the conference can probably be arranged. We would suggest that counties without active YF&R Clubs encourage their Young Farmer Chairman and other young farmers in the county to attend. It is also recommended that advisors from each sponsoring organization attend the conference.

AFBF YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The past chair and all members of the State Executive Committee, Outstanding Young Woman winner and spouse, 1st and 2nd place Outstanding Young Farmer winners and spouses, 1st and 2nd place Excellence in Agriculture winners and spouses, 1st and 2nd place Discussion Meet winners and spouses, Environmental Stewardship winner and spouse, Collegiate Discussion Meet winner, and advisors are eligible to attend the National Leadership Conference. All expenses are paid by the Tennessee Farm Bureau for contest winners, their spouses and all state committee members. State committee member's spouses must pay registration and travel expenses. Your county is encouraged to register additional attendees through Dan Strasser.

The Annual AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet is held at this conference. The national contest is for winners of State Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet competitive events. All undergraduate college student winners will vie for the National Winner title and cash prize award. Each state can only send one competitor to be in the contest.

All delegates have an opportunity to get acquainted with young farmer leaders from other states, share program and farming ideas in the many workshops, to hear from outstanding speakers in agriculture, and from top motivators in the United States.

TENNESSEE YOUNG FARMERS CONFERENCE

The Annual Young Farmers Conference is held during July in Columbia at the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation Headquarters. Delegates are housed at the local hotels, which is 8 miles from the Farm Bureau Headquarters. All meetings are held and meals served at the Farm Bureau office. The state YF&R committee serves as official hosts and presides over all sessions of the conference.

Every county Farm Bureau is eligible to send couples or singles between the ages of 18 and 35. Participants are not limited to counties who have active YF&R programs. The county Farm Bureau Board of Directors selects or approves the county's delegates. Many counties select their delegates during a county Young Farmer of the Year Awards Program held in early spring. Each county Young Farmer of the Year Winner is asked to attend the Young Farmers Conference in addition to the other young farmers. Counties that have Young Farmer Contests normally send their first and second runner-up to the Young Farmers Conference as part of the Young Farmer Awards Program. The Tennessee Farm Bureau provides food and lodging while at the conference. In most cases, county Farm Bureaus take care of travel expenses to and from the conference.

The highlights of the conference are the selections of the **Tennessee Farm Bureau Young Farmer of the Year Winner, Environmental Stewardship Winner and Collegiate Discussion Meet Winners**. The conference also includes a video presentation featuring the county Young Farmer of the Year Winners. Conference delegates get the opportunity to meet and talk with the staff of the Tennessee Farm Bureau. In addition, they take tours to local agricultural facilities. Delegates enjoy socializing, informative sessions and participation in the Annual Young Farmer Olympics. More detailed information about the Young Farmers Conference is sent to county Farm Bureaus in late spring.

FALL AGRICULTURE TOUR

The Fall Agriculture Tour is held the last week of September and first part of October. The conference rotates between East, Middle, and West Tennessee. The main purpose of the tour is to expose young farmers from different sections of Tennessee to the different types of agriculture across Tennessee. They have toured Wampler's Sausage, Cates Landing, Sweetwater Valley Cheese, Bristol Speedway, and Shiloh Military National Park to name a few. Depending on what section of Tennessee the conference is held, they tour specialty farms, such as, cotton, dairy, beef cattle, tobacco, green houses, tomatoes, and niche markets. There are opportunities for social activities and fellowship with friends they have made over the years and to make new ones. County proposals to host the coming year's Fall Tour is due to TFBF Office by September 1.

The following regions will host Fall Tour in the order listed below:

Fall 2019 - West

Fall 2020 - Middle

Fall 2021 - East

The highlights of the conference are the **Annual Excellence in Agriculture Award Contest and "YouTell" Ag Video Contest**. All Young Farmers from across the state will compete for the state winner title and grand prizes. More detailed information about the conference and contest will be sent out in middle of summer.

STATE CONVENTION

The Annual Conference of Young Farmers and Ranchers will be held during the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation Convention, which normally starts the first Saturday in December in Franklin, TN.

The program will include presentation of County Activity Awards, Discussion Meet Awards, Outstanding Young Woman Awards, adoption of resolutions, and election of State Chairman and State Committee. The convention marks the close of a year's work. All YF&R activities are conducted on Saturday and Sunday of the convention.

The delegate body is set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws as follows: "Article II, Section 4 - Delegates: Each member organization shall be entitled to two official delegates at the annual meetings. Whenever possible, one delegate shall be a young lady and one shall be a young man. Same gender delegates are acceptable only if a female/male delegate team is not available.

Our Primary importance at the State Convention is the election of the State Chairman and State Committee who plans and carries out all state YF&R activities including the State Convention. Serving on the State YF&R Committee is a great opportunity for young farmers. Refer to Articles III & IV of the Constitution & Bylaws for more information about the election of the State Committee

YF&R STATE COMMITTEE

<u>Eligibility</u>	<u>Expectations</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
Must be a member of Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and have attended two state level meetings.	Represent the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation in a professional and respectful manner.	Develop leadership skills. Build relationships with other farmers and ranchers across the state.
Two representatives from each district. One male and one female.	Understand and abide by the YF&R code of ethics. Be willing to assist the staff of the TFBBF with any need that may arise.	Participate in training and telling your story. Expense paid trip to the AFBF Leadership/Fusion Conference.
District votes on representatives during December YF&R State Convention.	Promote agriculture in your community district and across the state.	Expense paid trip for conferences in the state.
Elected to one-year term on YF&R State Committee with option of one re-election.	Expected to attend AFBF Leadership/Fusion Conference in February.	A rewarding way to serve and give back to the Farm Bureau Federation. Camp Woodlee Adventures. Committee Team Building.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact your YF&R State Committee Representatives.

STATE COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT OFFICERS **Eligibility and Expectations**

The Young Farmers and Ranchers of Tennessee State Committee is a committee made up of five executive officers, six committee members, and two advisors. Each district must have at least one male and one female represented. Committee members are elected to a one-year term with the option of one re-election. In order for a member to be eligible, he or she must have attended two state level meetings. Each district will vote for representatives during the December Young Farmers and Ranchers State Convention.

The state committee plans and coordinates all state activities including the Young Leaders Conference, Young Farmers Conference, Fall Agriculture Tour, and State Convention. The committee also coordinates all state Young Farmer and Rancher competitions.

A member of the Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee is expected to represent the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation in a professional and respectful manner, understand and abide by the code of ethics, be willing to assist the staff of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation with any need that may arise, and promote agriculture in his or her community, district and across the state. Furthermore, members are encouraged to attend the American Farm Bureau Federation Leadership/Fusion Conference in February, which the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation provides sponsorship for, and are expected to attend all state conferences arriving a day early for planning.

A member of the state committee will develop leadership skills and build relationships with other farmers and ranchers across the state. A few of the benefits are an all-expense paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Leadership/Fusion Conference, all-expense paid trips to state conferences, and adventures at Camp Woodlee in McMinnville, TN. Throughout a term of service, there will be several opportunities for a member to tell his or her story while also participating in training and team building activities.

Refer to articles III and IV of the YF&R Constitution and Bylaws for more information for the election of the State Committee.

YF&R DISTRICT OFFICERS

One of the highlights of a person's involvement in Young Farmers & Ranchers is serving as a District Officer or as a member of the State Committee. District YF&R Officers are elected during the Fall YF&R District Meetings in each of the five districts. It is the responsibility of the District Officers to work with the State Committee in planning all district activities and to coordinate state activities with the members in their district.

ORDER OF THE GOLDEN RULE

The Order of the Golden Rule is a membership society housed within the Tennessee Young Farmers and Ranchers program. It was started in 1947 at the first annual Leadership Training Conference then called Leadership Training School, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Order of the Golden Rule seeks to recognize those individuals who 1) exemplify service to others, 2) strive to improve the quality of YF&R programs, and 3) conduct themselves with a genuine spirit in elevating the needs of others above their own. Membership in the Order of the Golden Rule is not an acknowledgment of awards and accomplishments but instead recognizes the attitude and spirit of service to others.

New members are nominated by YF&R membership at District Meetings. Each district can nominate up to three individuals for membership into Golden Rule. Method of selection is at the discretion of each District. Nominees will be presented and new members selected at the annual closed-door Golden Rule meeting. (Please note that district nominees may or may not be selected for membership; each nominee will be evaluated in the Golden Rule meeting). Induction into the Order of the Golden Rule is for lifelong membership.

CAMP WOODLEE ACTIVITIES & RESERVATIONS

The camp used for Tennessee Young Farmer & Rancher camping activities is Camp Woodlee which is located in McMinnville, TN on the scenic Collins River in Warren County. The camp is named for Mr. O.L. Woodlee who donated the property for the camp in 1951. 4-H, FFA, church, and other youth groups use the camp in addition to YF&R. Most of the buildings on the camp property were built by Young Farmer & Rancher members several years ago with materials donated to the camp. In 1986, the Tennessee National Guard completed work on a new kitchen facility as part of a training project. Approximately \$30,000 was raised by friends and former campers of Camp Woodlee to build this facility. The National Guard also made several improvements on cabins and other buildings at camp. During the spring and summer of 1988, a new caretaker's cabin was completed with funds given by former campers and friends of Camp Woodlee. The caretaker's cabin is presently occupied by **Kevin Pearsall** who oversees camp activities.

Camp Woodlee is available for use by 4-H, YF&R, or other groups. If you have questions or wish to make reservations to use Camp Woodlee, please call Kevin Pearsall at (931) 797-7561. The camp is available on a first come basis for dates other than the YF&R camping weekends, Statewide 4-H camping activities or Camp Woodlee Alumni camping dates. Visit <http://campwoodlee.tnfarmbureau.org/>