



# Outstanding Young Farmer NOMINATION FORM



**JOHN DEERE**

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COMPETITION

### **OVERVIEW:**

Nominations for the National Outstanding Young Farmers competition can be submitted by OFA members, County Ag Extension Agents, local or state Jaycee organizations, or individuals that know a deserving young farmer. The nominee must not be age 41 prior to January 1, 2014. The nominee must complete a two-page nomination form due no later than August 1. All nominees, through an extensive independent judging process, are narrowed down to 25 semifinalists, with no more than two from any one state. The semifinalists are then asked to complete a more extensive nomination form for an additional independent judging process. This judging process will narrow the field down to 10 finalists, with no more than one from any one state. This form will be due by October 15. If the semifinalist is selected as one of the top 10 finalists, he or she will be invited with an all-expense paid trip to attend the National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress in Rapid City, SD, in February of 2014. These finalists are asked to provide high-resolution photos, either on a CD or USB drive, which will be used in the NOYF Awards Congress program book and for a video presentation at the NOYF Awards Banquet. A panel of judges at the NOYF Congress will then interview the finalists and their spouses, and the four national winners will be chosen.

### **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

The top 25 National Outstanding Young Farmer Semifinalists are determined based on personal contributions in the following categories:

1. Progress in agricultural career (50%)
2. Extent of soil and water conservation practices (25%)
3. Contributions to the well-being of the community, state and nation (25%)

In order to assist nominees in completing their Nomination Form for national competition, the National Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) program is providing the enclosed guidelines and information to help the applicant complete their National Outstanding Young Farmer application.

## NATIONAL OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER NOMINATION FORM GUIDELINES

1. The application must be in typed format.
2. Page 1 is self-explanatory. The upper portion of page 2 is to be completed on the Nomination Form. Page 2 also contains questions 1 through 4. Complete your answers to the four questions on no more than two 8.5" x 11" white sheets of paper (front side only) in a typed format. The allotted pages must have top, bottom, and side margins of no less than ¾ of an inch. Do not use less than an 11 font. Indicate the nominee's full name centered at the top of each page. Space used may vary for answering each question. Indicate by number where each answer begins. Single-spaced typewritten answers are preferred with a double space between paragraphs.
3. Respond to each question completely. Avoid using "does not apply" because everything applies. Don't feel that you must use all of the space provided, but make sure you cover all of the key points. Covering 4-6 key items fully is better than trying to cover 10-12 items and not explaining them fully and not doing them justice.
4. Your completed application is the only information the judges use for ranking. This is not a time to be humble. If possible, have a third-party (such as a past OYF Finalist, OFA Member, County Ag Agent, etc.) critique your application before you submit it. You want to be certain that you have included your activities and achievements that exemplify you as one of our nation's outstanding young farmers.
5. Where appropriate, quantify your responses. State facts and numbers wherever possible.

### **PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURAL CAREER** (50% of the judging criteria)

1. How and when did nominee get started? Were you raised on a farm and want to continue the family tradition and why? Did you work for a farmer at one time and decide this was the career you wanted? Did you have another career and decide to switch to an agriculture career? How old were you when you started farming, and how did this influence your career choice?
2. Why did nominee enter farming and what were his/her goals? What are they now? Did you just want a job, or did you want a career? What goals did you set when you entered farming? Have you achieved your goals? If not, what steps are you taking to achieve your goals? What are your short or long-term goals?

### **EXTENT OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES** (25% of the judging criteria)

3. Explain the role soil and water conservation practices play in nominee's farming operation? When commenting on the soil and water conservation practice area, be sure to elaborate to the extent possible. You may want to touch base with your local soil conservation district to ascertain what measures you have implemented to preserve or conserve the natural resources.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATION** (25% of the judging criteria)

4. What are the organizations that the nominee is a member of in his/her community? Summarize those contributions you consider to have been the most important. Elaborate on one or more areas which you feel has impacted your community, state or nation and how they are of significance. This is your opportunity to express your opinions, values, goals, and visions or how your farm/family ties into the "big picture". Include membership and offices held in organizations by the nominee and spouse. Don't include county or state fair placings or things that happened when you were a teenager. You can mention a program such as 4-H or FFA, but what have you done since 4-H and FFA? Being a member of an organization is good, but judges will place more emphasis on offices that have been held such as a chairperson, director, manager, president, secretary, treasurer, coordinator, etc. The organizations do not have to be limited to agricultural organizations. Be sure to include other organizations that you have held positions over the years, e.g. volunteer fire squad, deacon in the church, township planning board, youth advisor, etc. Offices held are important in that they will show leadership roles you have assumed.

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION HISTORY:** The judges want to see the progress you have made since you started as a full-time farm operator to the current year.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the NOYF Coordinator, Rich Norz, via email at [noyfprogram@gmail.com](mailto:noyfprogram@gmail.com). Good luck.