



## 2024 YF&AP State Committee Application

### Overview & Expectations

**New for 2024** – all applications must be submitted online.

[Click here to access the online application](#)

Applications are due March 30, 2024

The Indiana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ag Professionals (YF&AP) program encompasses agriculture education, leadership development, professional networking and more for members and potential members from high school through the age of 40. As the future leaders of agriculture in our state and across the country, it is the goal of this program to provide resources and knowledge for our members to prepare them to excel in production ag, business, community involvement and leadership.

### **BACKGROUND**

Launched in 1969, Indiana Farm Bureau's Young Farmer program was created to help young men and women capitalize on the opportunities and overcome the challenges in the agriculture industry by becoming stronger leaders and more dynamic voices in their local communities. Young Farmer (now Young Farmers & Ag Professionals) activities are organized at the county, district, and state level. These can include participating in award contests, promoting district or state conferences, hosting county meetings, engaging in agriculture promotion activities just to name a few.

### **YOUNG FARMERS & AG PROFESSIONALS STATE COMMITTEE**

The purpose of the Young Farmers & Ag Professionals State Committee is to surface and develop agricultural leaders and advise INFB staff and leadership on the kinds of programming that will engage more Young Farmers & Ag Professionals in the organization. Members of the YF&AP State Committee must be 35 years of age or younger at the time they are appointed to the committee.

INFB YF&AP Committee members will demonstrate leadership through their commitment to the following committee leadership practices.

1. **Step up** – Committee members will represent and serve young farmers and ag professionals in Farm Bureau and the ag community.
2. **Link up** – Committee members will connect with county YF&AP chairs and other young farmers and ag professionals in his/her district to support and promote agricultural activities and initiatives.
3. **Team up** – Committee members will collaborate with one another, INFB staff, county young farmers and ag professional in their district, county boards, and INFB regional manager and INFB district director to support and promote the activities and initiatives of the Young Farmers & Ag Professionals program in Indiana.
4. **Show up** – Committee members will attend and actively participate in the structured meetings and events, as well as self-directed activities identified as part of the YF&AP State Committee program.
5. **Speak up** – Committee members will advocate for agriculture and serve as the voice of young farmers and ag professionals in Indiana. They will advance the mission of Farm Bureau and promote membership of the organization for the benefit of agriculture in Indiana.



The state committee has access to many unique opportunities throughout the year. These include:

- **INFB YF&AP Conference** – This statewide conference provides members an opportunity to learn, engage, and grow together. The annual event offers educational and networking opportunities for individuals, students and families to explore their potential in agriculture and beyond. Attendees will gain valuable experience and knowledge in business planning, production, communication, technology and more.
- **AFBF YF&R Conference/FUSION** – This national conference, hosted by the American Farm Bureau Federation, gathers young farmers and ranchers from across the country to dive deeper into developing their leadership skills. Speakers and professional sessions range from engagement and relationship building to economics and entrepreneurship. Attendees also tour the local agriculture scene and learn about farming and business practices from Washington, DC to Washington State.
- **District Outings** – Closer to home, state committee representatives host activities, trips, and events for young farmers and ag professionals in their area. Past events have included bus trips, baseball games, leadership training sessions and volunteering in the community. Connect with your regional manager to learn more about the events in your area.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

State committee members are appointed annually by the INFB President during the summer. New appointees attend the summer planning meeting for orientation in an ex-officio capacity. All efforts should be made by new committee members to attend the orientation on Friday of the summer planning meeting.

The official term of a state committee member starts at the fall of the gavel at the INFB Annual State Convention and ends at the conclusion of the YF&AP Conference two years later (December 2024 – February 2027). Appointees to the State Committee can participate in the discussion meet at State Convention but will not be eligible to compete the following year. State Committee members are not eligible to participate in awards or contests.

#### Eligibility:

- You may apply as an individual or a married couple.
- Be a voting member of Indiana Farm Bureau
- Between the ages of 18 – 35 at the age of appointment
- Attendance to all state YF&AP sanctioned events (listed below)
- Basic computer and phone skills (E-mail, excel, word, google docs, etc.)

#### State Committee members are required to:

- Attend the Summer planning meeting of the Young Farmers & Ag Professionals State Committee (August 9-11, 2024) and new committee appointee orientation.
- Host county YF&AP chairs in your District at least once per year to maintain relationships and share ideas.
- Encourage and promote participation in **all** YF&AP activities.
- Represent and work with YF&AP in your District – callouts, activities, service projects.
- Provide program input, promote participation, and implement successful state YF&AP activities, awards programs, and competitions.
- Work within their county and district to represent the interests of YF&AP in the policy process.



## **YOUNG FARMERS & AG PROFESSIONALS.**

- Pass policy recommendations that will be submitted to the INFB State Resolutions Committee for consideration.
- Work with county, district and/or state Farm Bureau leaders to encourage YF&AP participation in INFB priority programs, including policy implementation, policy development and leadership trainings.
- Attend meetings and events where INFB YF&AP state committee has responsibilities.
- Attend one Statehouse visit during your term and an optional DC Advocacy Trip during your term or the year following your term.
- Participate in district planning meetings (two or three per year, as planned by the regional manager and district director).
- Represent the YF&AP state committee at District Farm Bureau meetings (typically two per year but varies by district).
- Participate in county YF&AP activities (varies by county).
- Attend county annual meetings or other county activities when available (varies by county)

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Appointment to the state committee comes with the required participation in the following meetings or events. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### **2024**

- August 9-11, 2024: State YF&AP planning meeting – TBD
- November 2024: INFB FFA Ag Literacy Challenge Elite Luncheon – Indianapolis, IN – Date TBD
- December 12-14, 2024: INFB State Convention – French Lick, IN

#### **2025:**

- January 24-28, 2025: AFBF National Convention – San Antonio, TX (Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)
- February 2025 (Tentative): INFB Young Farmers & Ag Professionals Conference & State Committee Planning Meeting– Location TBD
- March 2025: AFBF Fusion Conference – Location TBD
- August 8-10 (Tentative): State YF&AP planning meeting – Location TBD
- July 2025 (tentative): Joint meeting with Board, WLC and YF&AP State committee
- September 13-15 (Tentative): Washington DC Trip/USDA Lock-Up (Senior Committee Members)
- November 2025: INFB Ag Literacy Challenge Elite Luncheon – Indianapolis, IN
- December 2025: INFB State Convention – TBD

#### **2026**

- January 2026: AFBF National Convention – TBD (Districts 2,4,6,8,10)
- February 2026 (Tentative): INFB Young Farmers & Ag Professionals Conference & State Committee Planning Meeting – Location TBD
- March 2026: AFBF YF&R Conference – Location TBD
- August 7-9 (Tentative): State YF&AP planning meeting – Location TBD
- July 2026 (tentative): Joint meeting with Board, WLC and YF&AP State committee
- September (Tentative): Washington DC Trip/USDA Lock-Up (Senior Committee Members)
- November 2026: INFB Ag Literacy Challenge Elite Luncheon – Indianapolis, IN
- December 2026: INFB State Convention – TBD



Additional events that may require attendance. Notice will be given ahead of time if attendance is expected:

- June: Indiana FFA Convention – Purdue University
- August: INFB Delegate Session – Hendricks County Fairgrounds
- August: Indiana State Fair and Taste From Indiana Farms
- October: National FFA Convention – Indianapolis, IN (various shifts available – mostly for Collegiate Farm Bureau, but YF&AP sometime serve)

Additionally, virtual subcommittee meetings will be held throughout the appointee's term and participation is expected. Subcommittees typically meet at least once a month.

### **INFB YF&AP APPLICATIONS**

- Applications to the INFB YF&AP State Committee are administered by the INFB Leadership Development Coordinator.
- INFB regional managers, district directors, district education and outreach coordinators, county presidents and Young Farmers & Ag Professionals committee members may surface applicants to serve on the state committee.
- Each INFB district is encouraged to submit three (3) applicants to be interviewed. These applicants are sent to the education & engagement team for review.
- A review committee made up of a minimum of three (3) individuals will review the applications and interview the candidates. Once candidates have been interviewed, the review committee will make a recommendation to the INFB President for appointment.
- Applications are due March 30, 2024. All applications must be submitted via the online application system.
- Questions should be directed to Justin Davis ([jdavis@infb.org](mailto:jdavis@infb.org)).