Who are Young Farmers & Ranchers?
Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers are active agriculturists like you – between the ages of 18 and 35 and involved in production, banking, business, and many other areas of the industry. Young Farmers and Ranchers develop leadership skills while volunteering time as active, vital members of the county Farm Bureaus.

As a member of YF&R, your voice will join those of your peers to speak out for agriculture. As you develop your skills and knowledge, your efforts will help Farm Bureau to effectively represent all farmers and ranchers.

Mutual Benefits
There are many returns for your time and effort as a YF&R participant.
You will have the opportunity to attend seminars focusing on leadership training, and you will gain valuable insights into all aspects of agriculture. You will learn how to promote your commodity as well as your industry. You will learn about issues and how to resolve them.

You will also make valuable professional contacts. You will meet and work with your elected officials. You will make friends for life with others in agriculture who share the same interests and challenges that you face daily.

Legislative Awareness
California agriculture is the most diverse in the world, and as a result, public policy issues affecting our agriculture can be very complex. Farm Bureau needs leaders like you to be involved in the legislative process. Young Farmers and Ranchers offers programs that give you that opportunity.

Social Activities
One aspect common to all YF&R activities is the opportunity to meet people. Whether you are participating on the county, state, or national level, there are others who share the same challenges and successes that you face daily. Social activities are where YF&Rs have fun and network at the same time!

How Do I Become Involved?
Contact your local county Farm Bureau office. Inquire about the status of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and upcoming events.

If a committee has not been appointed within your county and you are interested in getting one started, please indicate your interest to the county office.
**EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD**

The California Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award Program is designed as an opportunity for Young Farmers & Ranchers to earn recognition, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community). The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who does not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risk.

- First place wins $4000 and a trip to the national AFBF Annual Meeting
- Second place wins $1000

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**ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The California Farm Bureau Federation annually conducts a Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award competitive event. Selection of the winning Young Farmers & Ranchers 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 who are active Farm Bureau members involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks.

- First place wins $4000 plus 250 hours use of a Kubota Tractor and a trip to the national AFBF Annual Meeting
- Second place wins $1000
- First runner up receives $1000
- Top two finalists each receive $500

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**DISCUSSION MEET**

The Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet contest, which includes a Collegiate Division and an Open Division, is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. Judges are looking for the contestant that offers constructive criticism, cooperation, and communication, while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

- Winner receives $4000 and a trip to the national AFBF Annual Meeting
- First runner up receives $1000
- Top two finalists each receive $500