



**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**  
**DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1st**

The Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmer (WI OYF) program is providing the following guidelines and information to help the applicant complete their application to the state OYF Awards Weekend held in January each year.

**Outstanding Young Farmer application guidelines:**

1. The application must be in typed format.
2. Page 2 contains questions 1 through 8 with descriptions/additional comments to aid you in your answer. Complete your answers to the eight questions on no more than four 8.5" x 11" white sheets of paper (front side only). Indicate the nominee's full name centered at the top of each page. Space used may vary for answering each question. Indicate by number and the stated question, where each answer begins. Single-spaced typewritten answers are required with a double space between paragraphs. Be as factual as possible. 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. Where appropriate, quantify your responses. State facts and numbers wherever possible.
3. Your completed application, plus "Tell Us Your Story" (interview at the state event), is what will be used to judge each candidate. If possible, have a third-party (such as a past OYF Finalist, Ag Lender, 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 an outstanding young farmer.
4. To complete the application, we would like to receive between 40-50 photos of your farm. These photos will help the judges see what your farm/animals/crops look like and it will help to better visualize your written responses. Some of these photos should include family working on the farm plus a family photo or two. We would also like a photo of the candidate (with spouse, if applicable).

**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. What challenges has nominee faced and overcome? Did you face a financial, personal or physical challenge that you had to overcome? Was your operation adversely impacted by a natural disaster? Tell how this has impacted you in your farm operation. It is advantageous to explain how you have overcome challenges and adversities.
3. What help has nominee received, including inheritance, gifts, family partnership, etc.? Help can be in many forms. Have you received any that has assisted you in getting to the point you are in your agriculture career? This could be gifting of the land or equipment, monetary gifts, mentoring, etc.
4. Has nominee experimented with new production practices or developed new machinery? If so, describe. Have you tried some new and innovative production techniques? Are you experimenting with any new seed or livestock breeds? Have you modified equipment to meet your needs because the equipment was not available?
5. Why did nominee enter farming and what are 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?
6. What is the nominees' spouse's occupation and/or contribution to the farm operation? The judges consider the spouse's contribution in many forms. How involved is the spouse in the farm operation? In the WI OYF competition, we judge the couples as candidates. (At the national level, they judge individuals as the candidates).

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

7. 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.

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

8. What are the organizations that the nominee is a member of in his/her community? First, simply list the organizations and years you have been in each and, if applicable, list names of who is involved (husband or wife or both). Then 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 happen 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 is important in that it will show leadership roles you have assumed.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** The judges want to see where you are at financially. Please do this on the included chart, by first showing your starting assets and liabilities, and then by showing your current assets and liabilities. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence, but is required for your application to be complete. Your signature on application will certify the legitimacy of your financial statement.

**CROP & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION HISTORY:** Please complete the grid to the best of your ability. Your signature on application will certify the legitimacy of your production history.

**SPEAK UP FOR AGRICULTURE AWARD INFORMATION:** The bottom half of page 4 is for a separate award to be presented for "Speak up for Ag". You will have an **additional one page** for providing this information. This information, plus "telling us your story" will be the criteria used to present this award.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact:

Harold or Cindy Matton, 715-833-9649 or [wi-oyf@charter.net](mailto:wi-oyf@charter.net)  
Ken or Ann Reckelberg , 920-536-0425

**Deadline: November 1st**

**Good luck!**



# WISCONSIN OYF STATE APPLICATION

|  |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Number of years as a farm operator:  | Percentage of total income earned from farming: | %                                  |
| Number of days spent in "off-farm" employment:   | What is the "off-farm" employment?              |                                    |
| Is Nominee:  | Sole Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/>        | Partner <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|  | Salaried Manager <input type="checkbox"/>       | Other:                             |
| If other than the sole proprietor, what percentage of policy and management decisions do you make? |   | %                                  |
| Indicate the total number of acres operated:   | Tillable:                                       | Grazing or non-tillable:           |
| Of the above total, indicate the number of acres:  |   |                                    |
| Owned individually:  | Owned in partnership:                           | Percentage owned in partnership: % |
| Rented individually:   | Rented in partnership:                          | Percentage owned in partnership: % |

**The following 8 questions must be answered on up to four additional pages (front side only). Please see the Outstanding Young Farmer Nomination Form Information/Criteria Sheet for additional instructions on how to answer the questions.**

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

1. How and when did nominee get started?
2. What challenges has nominee faced and overcome?
3. What help has nominee received, including inheritance, gifts, family partnership, etc.?
4. Has nominee experimented with new production practices or developed new machinery? If so, describe?
5. Why did nominee enter farming and what were his/her goals? What are they now?
6. What is the nominees' spouse's occupation and/or contribution to the farm operation?

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

7. Explain the role soil and water conservation practices play in nominee's farming operation.

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

8. What are the organizations that the nominee is a member of in his/her community? (Be sure to read detailed information on the criteria sheet before answering this question).

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

| ITEM                                | YEAR STARTED _____<br><i>(as a full time operator)</i> | CURRENT YEAR _____ OR<br><i>(last three-year average from _____ to _____)</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Current Assets (1 yr. or less)      |  |   |
| Intermediate Assets (2 yr. to 7)    |  |   |
| Fixed Assets (8 or more)            |  |   |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                 |  |   |
| Current Liability (1 yr. or less)   |  |   |
| Intermediate Liability (2 yr. to 7) |  |   |
| Fixed Liability (8 or more)         |  |   |
| <b>Total Liability</b>              |  |   |
| <b>NET WORTH</b>                    |  |   |

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION HISTORY** (Total of operation, partnership included)

| ITEM                       | YEAR STARTED _____<br>(as a full time operator) |                 |             | CURRENT YEAR _____ OR<br>(last three-year average from _____ to _____) |                 |             |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------|--|-----------------|-------------|
|                            | Acres   | Yield/Acre      | Total Sales | Acres  | Yield/Acre      | Total Sales |
| Crops                      |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
| Livestock (types & breeds) | Number  | Production/unit | Total Sales | Number   | Production/unit | Total Sales |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |
|                            |   |                 |             |  |                 |             |



**SPEAK UP FOR AGRICULTURE AWARD INFORMATION**

**GOALS OF THE OYF PROGRAM ARE:**

- To foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of farmers’ challenges, as well as the appreciation of their contributions and achievements
- To bring about a greater interest in farmers/ranchers
- To help build an urban awareness of the farmers’ importance and impact on America’s economy

All three goals relate to farmers and others “speaking up for agriculture” in many different ways. Emphasis in recent years at the Wisconsin OYF program has been to inform and supply facts to participants year-round so they can “speak up for ag”. An award for this area has been presented since 1999. The winner of the Speak Up for Agriculture Award is chosen by the OYF judges after reviewing this form and “Telling us your story” during the awards weekend. This is a separate award to be presented during the awards weekend.

**What have you done 1-on-1 or in a group to Speak up for Agriculture during your farming career?** (examples might be: host dairy breakfast, host farm tours, speak at schools, media interviews/contacts, speak to community groups, write articles or letters, participate in local chamber of commerce, etc.) Add one additional page only, to provide this information.

**CERTIFICATION**

“I certify that all of the information submitted with this application is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge.”

Signature of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_