

## American Farm Bureau Federation *Partners in Agricultural Leadership - Class 8*

### **Background**

*Partners in Agricultural Leadership* (PAL) is designed to further encourage and enhance leadership and advocacy skills built through participation in the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Discussion Meet, the AFBF Achievement Award, the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award, the AFBF YF&R Committee or chairing a state YF&R Committee. This advanced training program promotes personal growth in participants by building upon the foundation of leadership and advocacy skills attained through these YF&R programs. The PAL program is built as a partnership between American Farm Bureau and our agribusiness sponsors. Its purpose is to provide additional tools needed to expand leadership roles in order to serve YF&R, AFBF and the entire agricultural industry.

### **Eligibility**

Each state is eligible to make one nomination for the class based on the following criteria:

- Nominee shall be a member in good standing with their county Farm Bureau.
- Nominee shall be a voting Farm Bureau member.
- Nominee shall be an individual, unlike some YF&R programs in which couples apply together.
- Nominee shall be an individual between the ages of 30-40 as of March 2, 2015 who meets one of the qualifying criteria:
  - Sweet 16 finalists of the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet
  - Top 10 finalists of the AFBF Achievement Award
  - Top 10 finalists of the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award
  - Retired members of the AFBF YF&R committee
  - Retired chairs of a state YF&R Committee
  - Finalists from the PAL class 7 (2013) program application process
- Nominee must complete an application and be willing to meet the service commitments listed below.
- County, state and American Farm Bureau employees and employees of affiliated companies are not eligible to apply.

### **Service Commitments**

Applicants must agree to the following criteria to compete:

- Attend four training workshops and graduation with class members from June 2015 to February 2017. These workshops are tentatively scheduled for
  - June 7-11, 2015—New York City
  - September 13-17, 2015—Washington, D.C.
  - March 11-20, 2016—International
  - August 14-18, 2016—St. Louis
  - February 2017—Graduation at the Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Complete readings and other homework assignments by deadlines.
- Become an active member of AFBF's Grassroots Outreach (GO) Team.
- Conduct hometown presentations and community roundtables to hone skills.
- Create informational outreach and consumer-engagement videos.

- Develop a portfolio for presentation of your advocacy and learning during your involvement in the PAL program.
- Participate in the AFBF spokesperson network\* as opportunities arise.
- Participate in opportunities offered through other organizations – food, agricultural, etc.
- Complete an evaluation of the program.

\* On behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation you will conduct media interviews, attend AFBF events, participate in FB Advocacy, gain peer-to-peer connection through social networking and blogging, etc.

### **Entry Form and Application Guidelines**

- Do not use abbreviations or acronyms.
- The nominee must fill out and properly complete the application through electronic submission. No additional pages are to be used.
- Please attach and send three letters of recommendation in pdf form as additional files to the application submission. One letter must be from the state Farm Bureau president and at least one letter must be from an individual outside of Farm Bureau.

### **Application Selection Process**

- A panel of three qualified judges will select 15 finalists.
- Scorecard:
 

Leadership Experience	30 points
Leadership Desire	30 points
Knowledge/Grasp of Issues	20 points
Advocacy Experience	10 points
Diversity	10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>
- Finalists will be interviewed and ranked based upon the interview. Regional and commodity diversity will be taken into account. The interview will count for an **additional 25 points** of the scorecard.
- The top 10 finalists will be named as candidates for *Partners in Agricultural Leadership* enrollment with the remaining five named as alternates.
- Candidates and alternates will be notified of their status. Candidates will have two weeks to accept or decline the invitation. Should a candidate decline participation, the first alternate will be contacted and given two weeks to accept or decline until the class is filled.
- Candidates who accept enrollment in the class will be asked to submit a letter of intent. Finalists and/or alternates who cannot participate in the class will be invited to apply to the following class.
- Once the class is filled, the training program will begin. The maximum class size is 10 members.

### **Photographs**

Please attach one portrait headshot picture of you. Please send pictures that are bright and crisp. (Note: All pictures become property of AFBF.)



**Deadline and Schedule**

Applications must be submitted to the email address, [pal@fb.org](mailto:pal@fb.org) on or before **5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on March 2, 2015** to be considered for the *Partners in Agricultural Leadership* program.

Finalists Announced – March, 2015

Interviews Conducted – March-April, 2015

Class Announced – April, 2015