



The American Farm Bureau Federation County Activities of Excellence (CAE) Awards celebrate unique and innovative volunteer-driven programming at the local level. Recognizing these programs and activities encourages county Farm Bureaus to look at their accomplishments throughout the year and gain ideas for the future. The CAE program categorizes activities into the following areas: Education and Ag Promotion, Member Services, Public Relations and Information, Leadership Development, Policy Implementation, and Safety.

In addition to being recognized by AFBF, up to 24 county Farm Bureau activities from across the nation will be selected to display in the Trade Show at the American Farm Bureau Convention. Individual county activities and multi-county collaborative activities selected will receive \$4,500 toward expenses incurred to participate in the CAE program at the American Farm Bureau Convention as well as four free convention registrations.



- Awards are judged based on the following membership groups:
- Up to 1,000 members
  - 1,001-3,000 members
  - 3,001-5,000 members
  - 5,001 + members
  - Multi-county activities





# RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. County Farm Bureau applications must be submitted no later than September 1, 2026, at 11:59pm EDT.

The link for the web-based application can be found at [www.fb.org/cae](http://www.fb.org/cae).

2. Each applicant is required to upload a minimum of two high-resolution photographs of the activity. These photos may be used in the future for promotional material. These photos must not have any state or county identifiers in them.

3. Only one entry per county per year may be submitted by a county Farm Bureau either as an individual entry or as a part of a multi-county entry, but not both. The activity must have been conducted between September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026.

4. Entries will be evaluated solely on the contents of the online entry form. Only those entries approved by the state Farm Bureau CAE coordinator will be advanced for judging. State CAE coordinators will have the final say in advancing applications from their state for judging. Applications that contain the name or visual of the state or county (e.g. state map outline) will not be eligible for selection, including contents in both the written application and photos.

5. Entries must be approved by the state CAE coordinator no later than September 9, 2026, at 9:00 am EDT. The coordinator must verify county membership numbers.

6. By submitting an entry, county Farm Bureaus and their representatives agree to participate in publicity and advertising efforts of AFBF as it relates to the CAE award program. However, entry does not guarantee publication.

7. AFBF will announce counties selected to participate the first week of October 2026.

Timeline	
Activities Completed	September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026
Applications Open	June 15, 2026
Entry Deadline	September 1, 2026 at 11:59pm EDT
State Approval Deadline	September 9, 2026 at 9:00am EDT
Winners Announced	First week of October
Winners Displayed at Tradeshow in Charlotte, NC	January 8-13, 2027

8. A minimum of three counties in each membership category up to 24 individual county activities, including up to four multi-county collaborative activities, will be recognized. The county activities selected to display in the 2027 Trade Show will receive four complimentary registrations to the American Farm Bureau Convention, a complimentary 10' x 10' booth space, and a cash stipend of \$4,500 to be applied toward the cost of travel and trade show exhibit. The awards will be presented only if the counties receiving recognition exhibit in the Trade Show, and stipends will be distributed following Convention attendance.

9. For county activities selected by AFBF, it is the county Farm Bureau's responsibility to prepare and deliver exhibit materials to the Trade Show and set up, staff, and dismantle the activity booth in Charlotte, North Carolina. The county Farm Bureau is responsible for all logistics and expenses related to shipping, transportation, hotels, etc.

10. AFBF is not responsible for loss or damage of materials.

11. County Farm Bureaus that have been selected to display at two consecutive Trade Shows will be ineligible in the third year.

12. Once an activity submitted by an individual county or multi-county applicant receives a CAE award, that activity becomes ineligible for future award consideration from the same county or multi-county applicant.

13. For every three applications a state Farm Bureau submits, they must provide one judge for the evaluation process, up to ten judges. State CAE Coordinators will automatically be designated as judges. See table below.

Number of Applications	Number of Judges Provided by State
1-3	1
4-6	2
7-9	3
10-12	4
13-15	5
16-18	6
19-21	7
22-24	8
25-27	9
28 +	10