



THE UNITED STATES JUNIOR CHAMBER

# OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER FACT SHEET

## PURPOSE

To Foster better urban-rural relations by creating a greater interest in, and understanding of today's farmers and their problems, by honoring their achievements.

## HISTORY

The Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) program originated from the naming of an outstanding young Man of the Year by the Shenandoah (Iowa) Jaycees during the 1940s. In 1951, the Iowa Jaycees selected their first OYF winner. In 1954, the program was approved as a national recognition program for The U.S. Junior Chamber. The first four national winners were recognized in 1955.

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Ages 21 through 40, not becoming 41 prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year they will compete.
2. Must be actual farm operators, deriving a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming.

## LOCAL WINNERS

Junior Chamber chapters are encouraged to select and recognize an Outstanding Young Farmer each year. Young Farmers who will represent the state in the National Outstanding Young Farmers competition.

## NATIONAL COMPETITION

All state winners entering national competition must submit a nomination form to The U.S. Junior Chamber by **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. From the national competition the top 25 state finalists and spouse will receive an all-inclusive paid trip to the National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress in February where the four national winners are announced.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Progress in agricultural career (50%).
2. Extent of soil and water conservation practices (25%).
3. Contributions to the well-being of the community, state and nation (25%).

## SPONSOR AND SUPPORTING GROUPS

The Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) program is sponsored by John Deere; supported by the Outstanding Farmers of America (OFA) fraternity and National Association of County Agriculture Agent (NACAA); and administered by The United States Junior Chamber, Attn: OYF National Program Manager, P.O. Box 7, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74102-0007, 800-JAYCEES, [oyf@usjaycees.org](mailto:oyf@usjaycees.org).

## VIRGINIA-SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS/GUIDELINES

Nominee can choose NOT to complete Section 4 (the last page) of this nomination form. However, if nominee is selected as a candidate for the national Outstanding Young Farmer, this information will be necessary for the complete nomination form to be submitted. Also, the form may be handwritten, however it must be legible in order to be considered for judging.



JOHN DEERE

