



# YF Awards Best Practices

# Story-telling:

- Personal Background – what experiences shaped who you are?
  - Family/Personal hero
  - Family history in farming (multi-generation or brand-new?)
  - Teacher/Ag advisor/Coach
  - Special event (fair, travel, weather, adversity)
  - Earliest memories; proudest moment
- Community involvement –
  - Promoting ag to non-farm public (rotary club, classroom presentations, festival/fair demos)
  - Providing opportunities for education/involvement for youth (selling 4-H animals, hosting farm tours)
- Any and every detail counts!



# Examples

- Earliest memory of being an advocate for agriculture: kindergarten show & tell with our hogs
- Overcome adversity: kept the farm and family together after a tornado ripped through town
- Mission trip to Nicaragua showed me the importance of giving back, how fortunate we are in agriculture
- Write the app like a movie script – no one else knows your story like you do

## Ask the right questions:

- What/who shaped your values? (Experiences, education, family, etc.)
- What made you choose the lifestyle you have? How did you come to that conclusion?
- What struggles have you overcome or have influenced your values/lifestyle?
- What makes you unique? (repurposing old equipment, using niche markets, connecting underserved persons)



# Explore potential

- Tell me about....
  - What you do off the farm for fun/work/other
  - Activities from HS/College (study abroad, clubs, )
  - Non-ag activities (music, sports, travel)
- Go through your calendar of the last year (activity ideas, prep work, events)
  - Job training, conferences
  - Work committees, awards/recognitions

## Best Performers:

- Stay on track – start Google Doc to keep ideas fresh and invite others to add
- Showcase your growth – looking for increases in production numbers AND involvement,
- Applying together? Showcase teamwork – don't sell the “farm wife” position short (equal involvement level between A1 & A2)
- Break down events by activity/duty to add involvement
- NO BLANK SPACE

# Involvement

- Grain Safety Committee



- Grain Safety Committee: Co-Chair of Education & Outreach Programs
- Grain Safety Committee: Community Foundation Grant Writer
- Grain Safety Committee: Community Advocate
- Grain Safety Committee: Farm Tour Host

