

American Farm Bureau Federation
First Person Response Examples for Excellence in Ag and Achievement Award

1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND (family, education and personal interests)

My wife, our daughter, and I live on my family's fourth generation dairy farm. Growing up in farm families, we both knew the importance of agriculture in our lives and that we always wanted to be a part of the industry. After graduating college with a bachelor's degree in Dairy Science, I returned to the family farm to assist my family in running the operation. My wife pursued her dream of becoming a Dental Hygienist but returned to work full-time on the family farm when we expanded our operation three years ago to include agri-tourism and a creamery.

As a family, we are passionate about our agricultural way of life. We work hard to help feed the world and keep the operation sustainable for future generations.

3. GOALS

- A. What goals does the applicant(s) have for the next five years related to his/her career, Farm Bureau involvement and involvement in other organizations?

Agriculture is an important aspect of our lives; it is in fact our livelihood, one that we are very proud of. As we discuss our future goals for the next five years, the most important goal is continuing to grow our family's dairy operation, as well as our creamery and agri-tourism. One of the dominant reasons behind our decision to diversify by adding the creamery and agri-tourism to our farm was the opportunity it presented to positively promote agriculture within our community. As agriculturalists, it is important to us that we do our part in informing the public on agriculture and offer the opportunity to change their perception of the industry by seeing first hand where their food comes from. We plan to achieve this by expanding the number of field trips we offer.

Farm Bureau is incredibly important to us and we look to increase our involvement over the next five years. I have been highly involved with our state membership drive over the past three years. I look to continue this involvement and hope to serve as the committee chair in the next few years with a personal goal of recruiting 20 new members each year. My wife has set a goal to serve on the state Women's Leadership Committee as a district representative.