

Agriculturalists

FOR THE FUTURE



Brought to you by the Young Farmers and Ranchers of Colorado Farm Bureau.



The Program

“One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination.” — John C. Maxwell.

Agriculturalists for the Future is geared towards connecting people to help achieve goals in pursuit of a unified agricultural industry that provides growth for all willing to ask for it. Just as the fields benefit those willing to plow through the rock, we believe the industry should provide a fruitful harvest for young individuals looking for mentorship in the agriculture industry.

This program is entirely voluntary. What you put into this program is what you will get from it.

We believe that:

1. Mentors provide information and knowledge.
2. Mentors can see where we need to improve and often cannot.
3. Mentors find ways to stimulate our personal and professional growth.
4. Mentors offer encouragement and help keep us going.
5. Mentors are disciplinarians who create necessary boundaries that we cannot set for ourselves.
6. Mentors are sounding boards so we can bounce ideas off them for an unfiltered opinion.
7. Mentors are trusted advisers.
8. Mentors can be connectors.
9. Mentors have the experiences you can learn from to prevent making the same mistakes beginners make.
10. Mentors are free, which makes them priceless in more ways than one.

United in agriculture, we ask that all who can take this opportunity to ensure that those with the desire to lead the industry do not have to set sail without a guiding light. We have a chance to work together to make this industry and the Nation better. Those Bonds forged, opportunities taken, and goals achieved for the future of agriculture.

Eligibility

MENTEE ELIGIBILITY

An individual is eligible to be a mentee in the Agriculturists for the Future program if:

- The individual must be between the ages of 15-24.
- The mentee is encouraged to be a member of the Colorado Farm Bureau
- The mentee must be a driven individual that can commit to this program.
- The application is submitted to the YF&R Committee for consideration.

MENTOR ELIGIBILITY

For an individual to be eligible for a mentor, they must:

- Be in good standing with the Colorado Farm Bureau.
- Submit application to the YF&R Committee for consideration.

SERVICE COMMITMENTS

Applicants must agree to meet the following criteria:

- Have at least four (4) meetings with their mentor/mentee within the 12 months of their time in the program*.
- Complete an evaluation of the program during and at the end of the 12 months*.

**Colorado Farm Bureau reserves the right to dismiss any Agriculturists for the Future participant for behavior that reflects poorly on the program or the organization*

Mentee Questionnaire

Please send your below questionnaire and resume, if you have one, to yfr@coloradofb.org.

Name:

What part of the State are you from?

Where do you live the majority of the year?

What school do you currently attend if you do?

What are your goals in the pursuit of bettering the future of agriculture?

What excites you most about being a mentee in this program?

What are you hoping to have in a mentor?



What career are you planning to pursue?

Why did you choose this field to try and obtain a mentor in?

Define what a successful mentorship looks like to you.

How will you communicate with your Mentor?

Would you be open to virtual (zoom) meetings with your mentor?

How much time do you have to devote to this program?

What are your goals over the next five years, and how do you hope this mentorship will help you meet the goals?

What is your story? (Give us a brief description of who you are and what makes you. This will be shared with the mentor upon selection)

*COMPLETE THE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS BELOW IF YOU ARE SEEKING A MENTOR
IN CULINARY ARTS*

What inspires you to cook, and when did this start?

Did a specific person inspire you to cook? Why?

Describe your favorite family event/meal/holiday.

Mentor Questionnaire

Name:

What part of the State do you live in?

How are you related to the field of agriculture?

Where did you go to school if you did attend?

What are you hoping to help a mentee with?

Would you be open to virtual (zoom) meetings with a mentee?

How much time do you have to invest in a mentee?

What do you hope to gain in being a mentor?

How will you communicate with your mentee?

How will you handle any challenges with your mentee if they arise?

Define what a successful mentorship looks like to you.

What is your story? (Give us a brief description of who you are and what makes you. This will be shared with the mentee upon selection.)

*COMPLETE THE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS BELOW IF YOU ARE SEEKING TO BECOME
A MENTOR IN CULINARY ARTS*

What is your level of knowledge about mentoring for culinary or food related?

Do you anticipate this mentoring to be a hands-on or hands-off approach?

Do you have space to spend time mentoring hands-on? (Working in a kitchen, bakery, etc.)

Mentee information

Your mentor is an individual from the Colorado Farm Bureau Family that you have been paired with based on your submitted application. Your mentor is your resource for the next year to help put you on pace to meet your 5-year goal.

As you relationship-build with your mentor, think about a couple of things you can say/do initially to create a connection.

- Show your excitement and gratitude, and share your life goals with your mentor.
- Dig deeper- Ask about their experiences that made them the mentor they are today. What professional groups and organizations do they take part in?
- Get a sense of how they would like to work together: Monthly meet-up, email chain, zoom call/facetime, etc.
- Discuss what you both are looking for in this mentorship relationship.

While we are very selective in this process, we understand issues may arise. Please reach out to a YF&R Committee member immediately if a problem presents itself so we can quickly resolve it.

Crops and livestock are the backbones of our industry, Crops, and livestock. This program is meant to generate some inputs for you. Feel free to use the committee's resources and relationship with your mentor. Let's grow together for the future of agriculture.

Mentor In formation

Your mentee is an individual from the Colorado Farm Bureau Family that you have been paired with based on your submitted application. Your mentee will use you as a resource for the next year to help them find a place to meet their 5-year goal. This is a two-way mentorship, meaning there is as much responsibility on the mentee as there is on you to connect and make the relationship beneficial.

MESSAGES FOR MENTORS

We thank you for undertaking this effort. We hear about the industry's issues and how few young individuals are willing to take the reins and push forward. This is our effort to make sure the cupboard is not bare regarding individuals and talent. Please help us ensure the fields continue to grow and the livestock continues to produce for years.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of a mentor in this program is to be a guidepost for your mentee. This program does not require the mentor to be a superhero. Your part is to answer your mentee's questions to the best of your ability. Agriculture is an industry of volatility and not for the faint of heart. Agriculture is an industry of experience. That is what we expect from the mentors in this program. Talk from your experience. Help guide those seeking guidance by relaying your experience and struggles. We will also be there every step of the way to assist and support in any way our committee can.

GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES

We understand that the new generation of farmers approaches life a little differently, all the way to how they communicate. There is not one way to approach this industry, just like there is not one way to mentor an individual. The YF&R Committee and all our resources are at your disposal, but please feel free to be the person you are and mentor your mentee in the way you see fit.

CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

We understand that things may not always go as planned. This is a merit-based program, and while we are highly selective about who can be a mentee, we understand issues may arise. If any problem presents itself, please immediately reach out to a YF&R Committee member so we can work as a team to resolve the issue.

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH- WE ARE A TEAM

Thank you for helping our Committee pursue a more unified agriculture community. The only way we can continue to grow as an industry is to grow together, and we believe this program is the best way to move forward in pursuing that growth. In this process, we are a team, yourself as a mentor and as a committee. Please understand that the Committee is at your disposal, but at the same time, we want to give you the space needed to be the best mentor you can be. Help us create that balance. Help us build a more unified agriculture family for the future of agriculture.