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**REGIONAL FINALS**

**CONTESTANT GUIDELINES**

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# SEASON 57: CONTESTANT GUIDELINES

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# CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on qualifying for the Season 57 FMG Young Farmer of the Year Regional Finals! This is a huge achievement and is the second step on the road to the Grand Final.

These guidelines will help you navigate your way through the Regional Final, and outline how to confidently present yourself and the contest in the best possible way to our sponsors, supporters, the media, and the public.

**Please note: if you win your Regional Final, you MUST be available for the Grand Finalist workshop in Christchurch 6-7 May 2025 (travel etc. will be covered)**



# CONTEST STRATEGY

## PURPOSE

To find NZ's best Young Farmer

## MISSION

Delivering a Contest showcasing the talent and impact of NZYF to every New Zealander.

## VISION

Elevating the food & fibre sector by enabling and promoting excellence.

## STRATEGIC PILLARS

### ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION

Of sponsors, members, public for personal growth of all.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A positive experience and association with Young Farmers and financially sustainable from the past to the present.

### EXCITEMENT AND PRIDE

Of club, the food and fibre sector and our own ability and skills.

### CREDIBILITY AND PRESTIGE

Contest has the integrity and quality to continually find the best young farmers in New Zealand.

## OUR VALUES

RESPECTFUL

ONE TEAM

PROUD

PASSIONATE

# THE CHALLENGES

The FMG Young Farmer of the Year is based around the following challenges, testing contestants on their theoretical and practical knowledge of the food and fibre sector.



## **AgriBusiness Challenge – 80 points**

Contestants are tested on their theoretical skills via a 50-minute written challenge on the Friday evening. More information to come.



## **AgriSkills Challenge – up to 100 points**

The AgriSkills challenges test contestants' practical skills in the Modules and Farmlet. Contestants are judged and scored based on their ability to complete work to a high quality within a time limit.

### **Farmlet / Modules**

- Contestants will work on their Farmlet throughout the day
- The Farmlet is a 1-4 Hour activity that is designed to mimic a typical day of tasks on-farm
- Just like at the District Final, you'll complete a number of modules based on NZ's primary industries
- Modules will vary between Regions and will range from loading bales, to livestock, to pasture management, to HR and first aiding
- Each module is 20 minutes long and worth 20 Points
- Prior to the event, you will be given a gear list that outlines the equipment you'll need to complete the Farmlet. Please let NZYF know if you need assistance sourcing any gear.



### **AgriSports Challenge – 80 points**

AgriSports is a test of speed and accuracy as contestants compete all at once to finish tasks to a high quality within a short time frame. There are two 30-minute Head-to-Heads on the day that are always crowd favourites with host Te Radar commentating on the action.

#### **Head-to-Head #1**

- Generally one task that contestant must complete to a high quality
- Points are awarded for the quality of the finished product

#### **Head-to-Head #2**

- Generally a race format where contestants work through a series of tasks to cross the finish line first, but may also resemble a knock-out type challenge (i.e. a speed shear)
- Points are awarded for placings and how well the tasks were completed



### **Agri-Knowledge Challenge – 80 points**

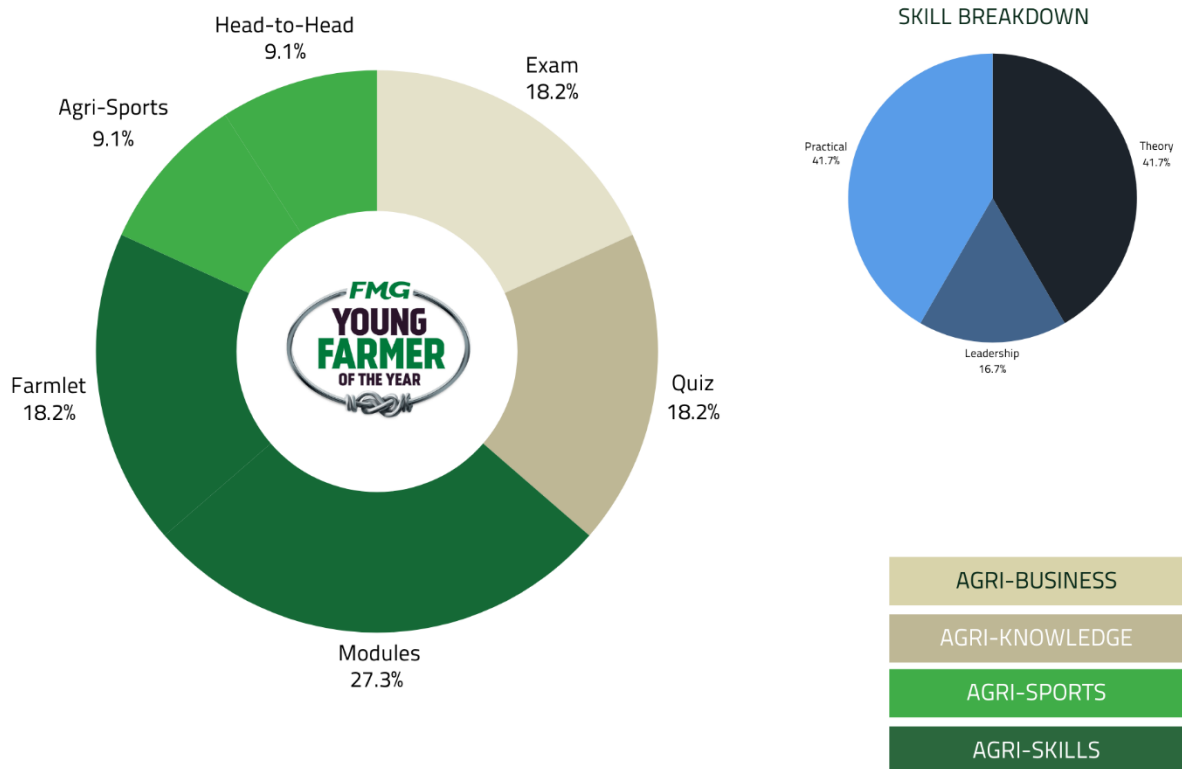
The most famous section of the contest is the quiz. The quiz is designed to test contestants on a wide and varied range of general agricultural knowledge and happens at the Evening Show which draws a crowd of sponsors, local supporters and NZYF members.

- The quiz has four rounds and a “Who Am I”
- All contestants will have a chance to answer questions in non-buzzer rounds, however buzzer rounds require fast recall and reflexes to get to the buzzer first
- Penalties will be given in buzzer rounds for unanswered questions or incorrect answers (you have 4 seconds to give an answer)
- There will be a closed rehearsal with Te Radar for you to test the buzzers, ask questions, and get comfortable on stage
- All eight contestants will remain on stage until the end of the quiz.

# POINTS BREAKDOWN

Here's a detailed look at the Regional Final scoring, giving you insight into the skills that will be put to the test.

## REGIONAL FINAL: POINTS BREAKDOWN



## CONTESTANT PORTAL

All event information can be found on the [Contest Portal](#).

On the portal, you'll find -

- The gear list
- Tips and tricks (hints about the contest from the committee)
- Red flag rules
- Rules and Conditions of Entry
- Link to purchase tickets to the Evening Show for your supporters
- AgriKnowledge Quiz question exemplar

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety (H&S) is a huge part of the FMG Young Farmer of the Year. As a representative of NZYF you must promote H&S with a positive attitude and use safe practices at all times while competing. This includes wearing all required PPE.

You are required to complete the following prior to competing – even if you’ve done so before. They can be found on the portal –

- [H&S induction](#)
- [Medical disclosure form](#) (this lets us know of any current or previous injuries/medical conditions you may have and will help us if you get hurt)

H&S is factored into the scoring of every challenge. You are not expected to complete any challenge if you do not feel safe to do so, and you may ask a judge to show you how to do a task safely. Points will be adjusted accordingly, however further points will be deducted if you undertake the activity unsafely. You will be provided with the correct personal protective equipment for each module – please use it!

The Contest Sub-Committee considers safety within the contest a very serious issue. Contestants who participate in a reckless, dangerous or on an irresponsible manner will be penalized or, in extreme cases, disqualified from the Regional Final Contest.

The FMG Junior and AgriKids contestants watch and look up to the FMG Young Farmer of the Year contestants, so set a good example and do the right thing.

## RED FLAG JUDGES

You will be closely watched in the Farmllet and Head-to-Heads by Red Flag Judges to ensure that you’re completing tasks in a safe manner. Red flag rules are available on the portal so please read these thoroughly. If you break any red flag rules, you will be given a 30 second stand down.

You will have the chance ask questions at the briefings.

# MEDIA AND PUBLICITY

In the lead-up to the Regional Final, various media outlets will run stories about the contest, and some will contact you to arrange a story or an interview. This is a great opportunity to promote yourself, your community, NZ Young Farmers and the FMG Young Farmer of the Year contest. Please positively represent NZYF and its values and remember to speak about the FMG Junior Young Farmer of the Year and AgriKids contests.

After the event, the top three contestants will be required to make themselves available to NZ Young Farmers for promotional purposes.

If you have any questions about this, please contact our Marketing team at **[marketing@youngfarmers.co.nz](mailto:marketing@youngfarmers.co.nz)**

# OUR SPONSOR FAMILY

Our sponsors make the FMG Young Farmer of the Year possible. They're invested in the contest and are interested in your story and success. Make time during the Regional Final to introduce yourself to them and have a yarn – you represent their investment.

If you're doing an interview, please ensure that you do not wear any clothing or display any products that promote a competitor of the contest sponsors or any contest clothing or products from previous years. Season 57 sponsors (as of 27 August 2024)

- FMG
- Ravensdown
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Honda
- Massey University
- Lincoln University
- Woolworths
- PTS Logistics
- Bushbuck
- Milwaukee
- New Holland



# CLOTHING

## Practical Day

- You MUST wear the FMG Young Farmer of the Year Bushbuck shirt and FMG hat you received at the District Final
- You will be required to wear your own plain black shorts that don't have any visible logos
- Feel free to dress to weather conditions and wear clothing under the contest uniform as needed
- You must wear safety boots, steel caps, or composite toe to A5/NZ52210.3 standard
- Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back

## Evening Show

- Men must wear black trousers with a white shirt and dress shoes. We will provide a tie for you to wear
- Women to be dressed formally – please do not wear anything too short or revealing as you will be sitting on a stool on the stage
- All clothing is to be clean, tidy, and ironed
- Do not wear any brands or logos

# TIMELINE

## Friday

**5:00pm** – Gear check and briefing

**5:30pm** – AgriBusiness Challenge

## Saturday

**7:00am** – Arrive and go through tool kits (Green Container)

**7:45am** – Briefing (FMG Tent)

**8:00am** – Practical Day begins (Farmlet and Modules)

**10:00am** – Head-to-Head #1

**10:30am** – Farmlet and Modules continued

**12:30pm** – Lunch (FMG will supply lunch for contestants)

**1:00pm** – Head-to-Head #2

**1:45pm** – Practical Day concludes

**4:00pm** – Closed rehearsal (no supporters allowed)

**5:00pm** – Doors open

**6:00pm** – Evening Show begins

**6:30pm** – AgriKnowledge Quiz

**7:30pm** – Dinner break

**8:30pm** - Prizegiving

**9:00pm** – Evening Show concludes (live entertainment to commence)

## **GEAR LIST**

You will be provided with a gear list prior to the event. Please let NZYF know if you require assistance sourcing gear.

All contestants must bring their gear to the AgriBusiness challenge to be checked.

You will be loaned a set of tools to use for the day. These have been gifted to NZYF and must be returned in the same condition they were received. All tools are numbered and assigned to a contestant so we know who has what.

## **EVENING SHOW**

The AgriKnowledge Quiz happens at the Evening Show. You will be on stage in front of up to 200 people, including -

- Sponsors
- Your peers
- MPs and Local Government
- NZYF Board
- Other industry VIPs

There will be a closed rehearsal at 4pm where you will have the chance to get comfortable on stage and with the buzzer. The MC will walk you through the evening and will give you some tips. It's encouraged that you don't consume any alcohol prior to the event.

You will each receive a complimentary ticket to the event which will include dinner. Any supporters will be required to purchase a ticket – this can be done on the NZYF website or through the Contest Portal. Ticket sales will close one week prior to the event.

There is a quiz question exemplar available on the portal.

# GRAND FINALISTS

The contestant with the highest overall score will qualify for Grand Final to compete against the 6 other Grand Finalists representing their Regions.

All Grand Finalists are required to attend the following (NZYF will cover the costs) –

- Second week in May - Workshop and Photoshoot
- First week in July – Grand Final

National Fielddays is optional to attend.

If first place is unable to attend or opts out of competing, their place will be offered to the second placegetter. If second place is also unable to attend, there will be no Grand Finalist from that Region.

## TIPS

- A wide and varied knowledge and skill set will be beneficial for all challenges. Resources given are just a helpful nudge in the right direction, but your study shouldn't be limited to what's there.
- Keep H&S top of mind – there are points associated with it in every challenge
- Have fun and enjoy the experience!
- Ask questions if you're unsure of anything you're being asked to do

Thank you for being a key part of the FMG Young Farmer of the Year 😊 We'll see you soon!