



**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmer and Rancher Committee  
Collegiate Discussion Meet  
November 10, 2016 in Laramie  
Application deadline is Oct. 26, 2016**



**General Information**

This contest is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each committee member. Through active participation in the Discussion Meet, contestants gain experience in analyzing and solving agricultural problems. The strength of Farm Bureau is largely its ability to involve members in analyzing agricultural problems. Applicants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

The participants will discuss pre-selected topics with four fundamental bases for the general discussion: cooperation, constructive criticism, problem solving and communication. **A successful participant is a productive thinker rather than an emotional persuader. He/she will assist the group in creating ways to implement the solutions discussed and highlight Farm Bureau's involvement in those action/steps.**

The 2016 WyFB Collegiate Discussion Meet will be held on November 10, 2016 in Cody. Contestant check-in will begin at 5 p.m., with preliminary rounds beginning thereafter. The "Final Four" round will follow. *Times are subject to change pending number of contestants.* *Entered contestants will be given specific time and location instructions.*

**Like us on Facebook/Wyoming Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers.**

## PRIZES

- \$ The winner of the WyFB YF&R Collegiate FB Discussion Meet will receive:
- \$300 cash from the **Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation**.
  - Eligibility and travel expense reimbursement to compete in the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Feb 10-13, 2017.
  - Each state winner that competes in the national competition receives a \$250 scholarship from CHS Foundation. Additional scholarships are the prizes for the final four national competitors.
- \$ The runner-up will receive a \$150 cash prize from the **Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation**.
- \$ The third and fourth place finalists will receive a \$25 cash prize from the **Wyoming Farm Bureau**.

COLLEGIATE DISCUSSION MEET 2016  
**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Application and Information Sheet**

COMPETITOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(as it should appear in a program)

PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or rural route City & state Zip code

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF COLLEGE \_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_

HOME STATE \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or rural route

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip code

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

1. Please give a 3-line biographical sketch below of you to use for display purposes only.

WyFB reserves the right to use your photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. The photos and/or video footage of undersigned competitor may also be available to sponsors of Farm Bureau events.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPETITOR

**Please return this entry form to:**  
Kerin Clark, WyFB YF&R Coordinator  
PO Box 685, Torrington, WY 82240  
Or you may also scan and email entry form to [kclark@wyfb.org](mailto:kclark@wyfb.org)

Questions??? Call 307.532.2002 or [KCLARK@WYFB.ORG](mailto:KCLARK@WYFB.ORG)

**Applications are due Oct. 26, 2016**

## **Competitor Qualifications**

1. The WyFB Collegiate Discussion Meet is open to undergraduate college students at the University of Wyoming or any of the Wyoming Junior Colleges. (The undergraduate status is at the time they qualify for the national competition, not necessarily the national competitive event itself.)
2. Competitors shall be between the ages of 18 and 35. They shall not have reached their 36th birthday by February 28<sup>th</sup> of the year in which they will compete at the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference.
3. Applicant shall not be enrolled in a graduate-level program at the time of his or her state Collegiate Discussion Meet competition.
4. Applicant must display a sincere interest in the agricultural industry.
5. Individuals who have competed in a previous AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet or AFBF Discussion Meet are ineligible.
6. Past and present AFBF YF&R committee members are ineligible.
7. Professional speakers are not eligible to compete. Professional speakers are those who have received a fee, royalty or honorarium for speaking (i.e., paid speaking appearances or speaking engagements) within 24 months prior to this annual competition. This excludes reimbursement for travel or expenses attendant to the appearance.
8. County, State and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible.

## **Competition Objectives**

Farm Bureau's strength depends on its members' ability to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The Collegiate Discussion Meet is an activity designed to build these crucial skills in young, active leaders in agriculture on the collegiate level. By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

As a leadership training and self-improvement activity, the Collegiate Discussion Meet experience will:

1. Stimulate logical thinking and a desire for accurate information.
2. Develop a concise and direct manner of speaking.
3. Improve the ability to listen.

4. Aid the participant in overcoming timidity or stage fright.
5. Assist the individual in the practice of giving and receiving criticism in a helpful manner.
6. Teach the value of compromise.
7. Develop leaders for effective problem solving through group discussion.

### **Background Information**

- The Collegiate Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee.
- The Collegiate Discussion Meet is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each committee member.
- The competitors will discuss pre-selected topics.
- The four fundamental bases of general discussion are:
  - Cooperation
  - Constructive Criticism
  - Problem Solving
  - Communication
- The discussion should not be "conversation" or aimless talk, nor should the participant take the role of a persuasive speaker. The participant should try to cooperatively shed light on the problem and tentatively retain a flexible position.
- A successful participant is a productive thinker rather than an emotional persuader. Sometimes it's reasonable to change positions whenever new information and ideas are presented.
- This is not a panel symposium wherein each participant, in turn, makes a presentation, with the moderator ending the session with a summary. Rather, it is an exercise in cooperative problem solving, with the questions, answers and statements coming from any person at any time. The moderator plays an inactive role during the discussion.

## **Helpful Hints For Competitors**

- Study as much material as possible relating to the overall topic. Sources: library, newspapers, magazines, Farm Bureau policies, county, state, and American Farm Bureau publications and conversations with experts or knowledgeable people.
- **Remember this is a discussion, not a debate.**
- Be prepared to ask questions, state facts and opinions, and urge others to be specific.
- Be aware of the audience, but generally address the panel. Speak loud enough to be heard by the whole audience.
- Participate whenever your contribution will further the discussion. Do not monopolize the discussion.
- The discussion should not be “conversation” or aimless talk, nor should you take the role of a persuasive speaker. Try to cooperatively shed light on the problem and tentatively retain a flexible position.
- This is not a panel symposium wherein each participant, in turn, makes a presentation, with the moderator ending the session with a summary. Rather, it is an exercise in cooperative problem solving, with the questions, answers and statements coming from any person at any time. The moderator plays an inactive role during the discussion.
- Make notes of key points as the discussion proceeds for use in your summary statement.
- Use the one minute of quiet time to organize your closing statement.
- Stand and make your closing statement to the audience. Use accepted speech techniques. Stay within the time limit.

## **Competition Format**

1. All competition facilitators and competitors will meet in the pre-assigned competition room for orientation to receive comments by the room chairman. The competition facilitators are WyFB designated room Chairmen and WyFB designated Moderators.
2. Competitors may not take prepared notes of any form with them to the competition table. After all competitors have been introduced, notes may be written on the paper provided. If a note is brought to the table and is noticed by the competition facilitator, there will be a disqualification called at the end of the round by the Discussion Meet Chair, the WyFB Committee Chair and/or the WyFB Coordinator.
3. The Collegiate Discussion Meet questions will not be provided at the competition table

- during rounds of competition.
4. The room chairman will call the meeting to order, announce the topic to be discussed, and introduce the timekeeper and moderator.
  5. The moderator will introduce the competitors and re-announce the topic to be discussed. He/she will give each of the competitors, in voluntary order, the opportunity to make a 30-second opening statement directed to the audience.
  6. The timekeeper may stand or otherwise indicate when 30 seconds has elapsed. Judges may subtract points at their discretion for competitors who abuse the time limit.
  7. The moderator will then indicate the opportunity for open discussion, which will continue for a total of 20 minutes in the preliminary rounds and the Final Four competition. The discussion should be directed to the fellow competitors during open discussion.
  8. The timekeeper will indicate to the moderator when five minutes of open discussion time remains for preliminary rounds and for the Final Four round. The moderator will indicate to competitors the time remaining by raising a table tent. He/She will ensure each competitor has seen the table tent before it is removed.
  9. If the discussion is lagging, the moderator may close the discussion at this time.
  10. The timekeeper will indicate to the moderator when 20 minutes in the preliminary rounds and Final Four competition have elapsed.
  11. The moderator will call for open discussion to stop and for one minute of quiet time allowing the competitors to consider a closing statement.
  12. The moderator will give each of the competitors, in voluntary order, the opportunity to make a one-minute closing statement directed to the audience.
  13. The moderator will recognize the judges and request them to leave the room with the room chairman to finalize the tabulation of their score sheets. Judges are not to confer with each other until the room chairman has collected their tabulated score sheets.
  14. The next round topic to be discussed will be announced.
  15. The moderator will thank the panel and ask the audience to recognize their efforts. The moderator may then request the competitors to each discuss their education and background, any ag experience and future aspirations.

## **Competition Structure**

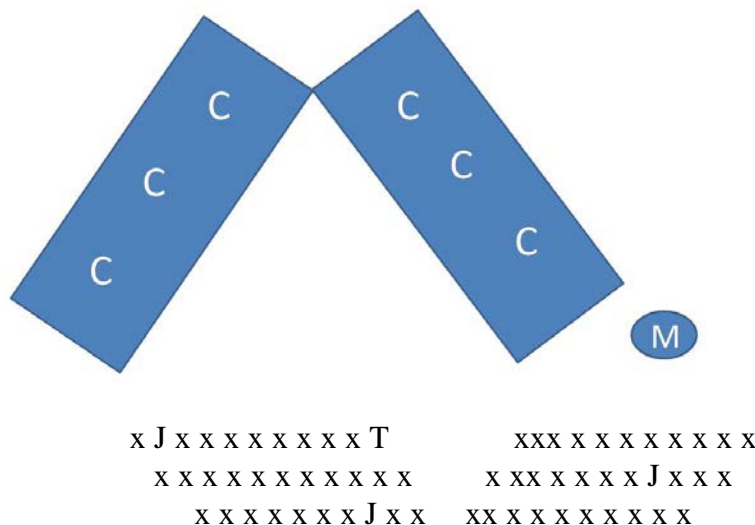
### **Orientations**

1. Collegiate Discussion Meet Orientation
  - a. All competitors are required to attend.
  - b. Roll call of competitors.
  - c. Release of Collegiate Discussion Meet topic time schedule.
    - First Round topic will be announced during Orientation
    - Each subsequent round topic announced at close of prior round
  - d. Distribute competition room locations.

## Competition

1. All competitors will compete in a preliminary round of competition. Each round will have four to six competitors. (If there are only four competitors, all four will compete in two rounds of competition with the scores being averaged.)
2. The four highest-ranking competitors will advance to a final round of competition known as the “Final Four.”
3. Judges are not permitted to attend any rounds preceding those in which they judge.
4. The physical arrangements of the Collegiate Discussion Meet rooms should provide for two tables at the front of the room facing each other and the audience. Half the participants should be seated at each table with the moderator on the side. Name cards identifying competitors should be easily visible. Cards should show only the competitor’s name, not their state.

## Room Layout



M = Moderator      C = Competitor      J = Judge      T = Timer      X = Audience

## Flow of Competition

Generally speaking, the discussion should follow these steps:

1. State the problem or need.
2. Explore, define, and understand the problem or need.
3. Identify causes of the problem or need.
4. Elaborate all possible alternative solutions.
5. Evaluate and compare alternatives.



6. Test and project what appears to be the best solution(s).
7. Create ways to implement the solution(s) discussed and highlight Farm Bureau's involvement in those actions/steps.

## **Scoring**

The room chairman will supervise the final tabulation by the judges. Judges will use the point system indicated on the score sheet to assist in selecting their winners. Each judge will be instructed to total his/her score sheet and rank the competitors. Each judge is to break ties that occur on his/her own score sheet. The room chairman will assist the judges in determining the final ranking of the competition.

1. The winner will be determined by judges' ranking, and ties will be resolved before the judges are dismissed.
  - Ties will be broken at the end of each of the preliminary round competitions and the Final Four by an automatic procedure using Problem Solving and Implementation as the first tie breaker, followed by Analysis of Topic and Cooperative Attitude.
  - In the event of an unresolvable tie between all three categories, total points from judges' rating sheets will be used to resolve the tie. The room chairman will assist with this process.
2. When possible, the above procedure should be conducted in a private room, with only the judges, room chairman, and Collegiate Discussion Meet chair present.
3. After competing in one round of preliminary competition, each competitor will be ranked according to his/her scores. From this final determination, the Final Four competitors will be chosen.
4. In the event that there are more than 20 Collegiate Discussion Meet participants competing at the WyFB Collegiate Discussion Meet, the WyFB YF&R Committee has the option to institute another eliminating round prior to the Final Four round.

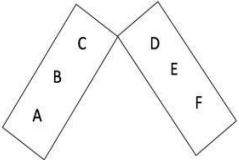
## **Discussion Meet Topics for 2016 Collegiate Discussion Meet**

1. American agriculture depends on a foreign-born labor force. How would you draft a national immigration policy?
2. How can we ensure that farmers and ranchers, not government agencies, are driving the management of natural resources?
3. How can we as farmers and ranchers maintain “ownership” of our intellectual and proprietary information? (Big data, unmanned aerial vehicles, unauthorized videos)
4. The nation’s tax policy has become increasingly complicated and cumbersome. What should a balanced and beneficial tax policy look like for agriculture?
5. Today’s food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food?

# Collegiate Discussion Meet Judges Sheet

## Collegiate Discussion Meet Judges Sheet

Room Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>In these columns, put the first and last name of the competitors according to where they are sitting using this diagram:</p> 	Comp A Name:	Comp B Name:	Comp C Name:	Comp D Name:	Comp E Name:	Comp F Name:
<p><b>(1) PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION: (200 points)</b>                      Ability and judgment in seeking answers and solutions, planning and organizational understanding, and the inclusion of Farm Bureau in implementing action programs.</p>						
<p><b>(2) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: (150 points)</b>                      Does contestant attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic?</p>						
<p><b>(3) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: (100 points)</b>                      Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreement, minimizing major differences. Courtesy to other participants, encourage discussion from other participants.</p>						
<p><b>(4) DELIVERY: (100 points)</b>                      Voice quality, loudness, clear enunciation, communication skills, desirable sentence structure and interesting choice of words.</p>						
<p><b>(5) OPENING STATEMENT: (50 points)</b>                      Definition of problem, importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem.</p>						
<p><b>(6) CLOSING STATEMENT: (100 points)</b>                      Ability to summarize discussion and formulate direction for the future.</p>						
<p><b>Total score for each contestant is to be tabulated by Judge.</b>  <b>Any tie scores are to be broken by Judge. TOTAL →</b>  <b>Total of 700 points possible.</b></p>						
<p><b>Rank contestants: 1(highest) – 6(lowest) RANK →</b></p>						