



# Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet

## Nov. 9, 2018 in Sheridan

Application deadline is Oct. 25, 2018

### 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. The Discussion Meet helps develop a greater command of basic discussion skills. Participants also acquire a better understanding of how people can think in groups for the sake of better understanding and solutions to problems.

The 2018 WyFB YF&R Discussion Meet will be held during the WyFB Annual Meeting Nov. 9 in Sheridan. Orientation, the first round and the final round will be Nov. 9.

*Entered contestants will be given specific time instructions.*

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

### PRIZES

\$ The winner of the WyFB Discussion Meet will receive:

- \$500 cash from the **Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation**.
- Eligibility and travel expense reimbursement to compete in the 2019 American Farm Bureau Federation YF&R Discussion Meet in New Orleans, Louisiana Jan. 11-16, 2019.

**Discussion Meet 2018**  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to: PO Box 685, Torrington, WY 82240 or email 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. 25, 2018**

## **Competitor Qualifications**

- Competitors shall be a Farm Bureau member in good standing with their county Farm Bureau between the ages of 18 and 35. They shall not have reached their 36th birthday by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they will compete at the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Individuals who have competed in a previous AFBF Discussion Meet are ineligible.
- Past and present AFBF YF&R committee members are ineligible.
- Competitors must be actively involved in agriculture to be eligible.
- States should screen competitors so that professional speakers do not 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.
- County, State and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible; this also includes affiliated companies.

## **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 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 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 Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee.
- The Discussion Meet is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each committee member.

- Participants 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 competitors will discuss pre-selected topics with 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.
- The Discussion Meet should be a conflict of ideas, not personalities. **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.
- Make notes of key points as the discussion proceeds for use in 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. At the point 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 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

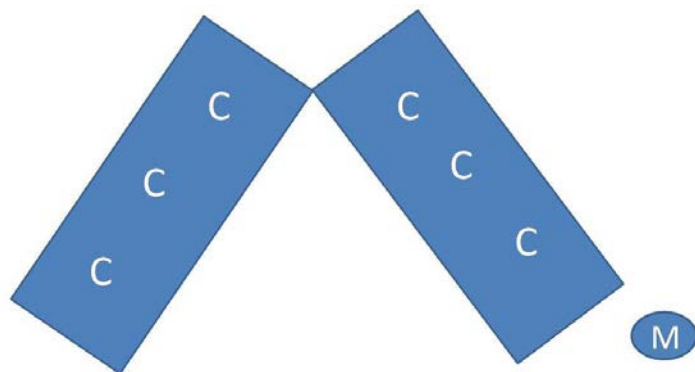
## Orientations

1. Discussion Meet Orientation
  - a. All competitors are required to attend.
  - b. Roll call of competitors.
  - c. Release of 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.
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 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



```

x J x x x x x x x T   xxx x x x x x x x
x x x x x x x x x x   x xx x x x x J x x x
x x x x x x x J x x   xx x x x x x x x
  
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M = Moderator      C = Competitor      J = Judge      T = Timer      X = Audience

## Flow of Competition

Generally speaking, the discussion should follow these steps:

1. State problem or need.
2. Explore, define, and understand problem or need.
3. Identify causes of 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.
7. Arrive at ways to implement the solution.

## Scoring

The room chairman will supervise the final tabulation by the judges. Judges will use the point system indicated on the rating 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.
  - a. 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.
  - b. In the event of an unresolvable tie between all three categories, total points from judges' score sheets will be used to resolve the tie. The room chairman will assist with this process.
  - c. When possible, the above procedure should be conducted in a private room, with only the judges, room chairman, and Discussion Meet chairman present.
2. 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. In the event of four entrants, all competitors will compete in two rounds and the scores will be averaged.

## Discussion Meet Topics for 2018 Discussion Meet

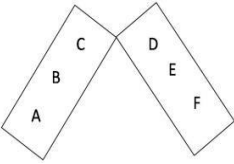
1. In our modern world, the rapid dissemination of information and opinion about agriculture and food technologies can make it difficult to distinguish fact from fiction. Given these challenges, how can Farm Bureau best protect farmers' and ranchers' access to production technology options?
2. As the Voice of Agriculture, how can Farm Bureau be more inclusive of all agriculture and production practices? This includes, but is not limited to, women in agriculture, organic production, fresh produce, forestry and aquaculture.
3. Technology is one of the driving forces for innovation and advancement in agriculture. How can the industry attract the best and brightest minds from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) into agricultural careers?
4. Money talks. How can farmers implement market trends and develop responsive business plans to generate value-added ventures and farm profits?
5. Associate members are a driver of new ideas and support. How do we create membership value and broaden the base of supporters in the Farm Bureau family?



# Discussion Meet Judges Sheet

## 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?                      Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts.</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>						