



Young Farmer and Rancher Collegiate Discussion Meet

November 12, 2019 in Laramie
Application deadline is Oct. 25, 2019

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 2019 WyFB Collegiate Discussion Meet will be November 12, 2019 in Laramie. Contestant check-in will begin at 4 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 Discussion Meet will receive:

- \$300 cash from the **Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation**.
- Eligibility and travel expense reimbursement to compete in the 2020 American Farm Bureau Federation YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet in Louisville, Kentucky March 13-16, 2020.

\$ 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 Federation**.

COLLEGIATE DISCUSSION MEET 2019
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

If a prize check needs mailed should we mail to permanent or college address? _____

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
Via email at kclark@wyfb.org
Or mail at :
PO Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073

Questions??? Call 307.532.2002 or KCLARK@WYFB.ORG

Applications are due Oct. 25, 2019

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. The individual shall have reached his/her 18th birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached their 36th birthday by January 31st of the year in which they will compete at the AFBF YF&R competition.
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. Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureau and their affiliates are not eligible to compete. An affiliate is defined as an entity owned or controlled in whole or in part by another entity through, for example, ownership (including partial ownership) or positions on the board of directors.

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. 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.
- Farm Bureau's strength depends on its members' ability to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The competition 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 four bases for the general discussion:
 - Cooperation
 - Constructive Criticism
 - Problem Solving
 - 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 actions/steps.
- 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.
- 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

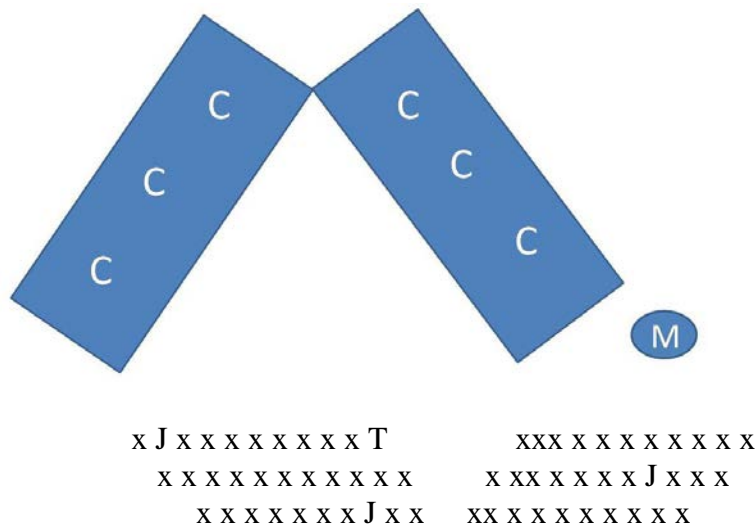
1. Collegiate Discussion Meet Orientation
 - a. All competitors are required to attend.
 - b. Roll call of competitors.
 - c. Release of Collegiate Discussion Meet topic time schedule.
 - First Round topic will be announced during Orientation
 - Each subsequent round topic announced at close of prior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

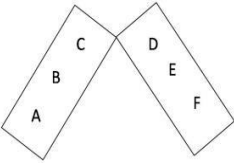
Discussion Meet Topics for 2019 Collegiate Discussion Meet

1. How can Farm Bureau build upon collaborative relationships such as Farm Town Strong to combat nationwide crises such as opioid dependence/addiction and mental health issues?
2. Products like cell-based food products have demonstrated the food system is rapidly changing. How can future food technologies and related products be beneficially integrated into modern agricultural production without hampering the success of traditional products and the farmers and ranchers who grow them?
3. The customer is always right. How do farmers and ranchers think and respond, through the lens of consumer priorities and marketing trends, to build common values and confidence in modern production methods to build consumer acceptance?
4. With abundant productivity, farmers are in need of new markets, including outside traditional food and feed channels. How do we develop, invest and commercialize to innovate new uses of agricultural products and by-products to benefit all of agriculture?
5. The 21st-century agricultural economy is threatened by labor shortages. Without a clear solution for accessing foreign guest workers as a component of immigration reform coming from Congress, what are some creative and legal ways for agriculture to address the labor needs of a modern production system?

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>(1) PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION: (200 points) Ability and judgment in seeking answers and solutions, planning and organizational understanding, and the inclusion of Farm Bureau in implementing action programs.</p>						
<p>(2) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: (150 points) Does contestant attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic? Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts.</p>						
<p>(3) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: (100 points) 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>(4) DELIVERY: (100 points) Voice quality, loudness, clear enunciation, communication skills, desirable sentence structure and interesting choice of words.</p>						
<p>(5) OPENING STATEMENT: (50 points) Definition of problem, importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem.</p>						
<p>(6) CLOSING STATEMENT: (100 points) Ability to summarize discussion and formulate direction for the future.</p>						
<p>Total score for each contestant is to be tabulated by Judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by Judge. TOTAL → Total of 700 points possible.</p>						
<p>Rank contestants: 1(highest) – 6(lowest) RANK →</p>						



Discussion Meet and Collegiate Discussion Meet Best Practices – 2020

- ❖ **Training calls.** All competitors are encouraged to join the training calls hosted by the AFBF YF&R committee in the fall. Specific dates and times will be announced in late summer. There will be a total of six calls and each will last no more than an hour. The first call will cover the Discussion Meet format and tips for success; the other five calls will focus on each Discussion Meet question. Often the calls include industry experts, who share their expertise and provide additional resources.
- ❖ **Utilize government research.** Search government agency websites and databases for strong statistics and data to use in your discussions. This information is reliable and well-researched.
- ❖ **Learn from the best.** Reach out to former Discussion Meet and Collegiate Discussion Meet participants. Even though the discussion questions change each year, former competitors can provide valuable insight and tips on the nature of the contest. Also, reach out to YF&R staff and committee members who have familiarity with the competition to get clarification.
- ❖ **Pros and Cons.** Review each question and create discussion points from both sides of the issue. This will not only give you greater understanding of how an issue developed, but it will prepare you to discuss potential obstacles when working to find a solution.
- ❖ **Diversify written sources.** Besides the internet, gather resources and information from the library, newspapers, magazines, Farm Bureau policies and other agriculture publications.
- ❖ **Real talk.** Engage in conversations with your local county Farm Bureau members, state and national representatives, lobbyists and agriculture industry employees to gather information and examples. Seek conversations with those who are not familiar with the issue to gain their perspective. Explaining the topic helps provide practice articulating what you know. As you speak, address all angles to gather additional points and as many ideas as possible.
- ❖ **Farm Bureau history.** Take time to review county, state and American Farm Bureau history on the topic. What are our standing policies with the questions?
- ❖ **Expert opinion.** If you don't have a personal relationship with the content of the question, find a credible source who does and get their opinion. Be prepared to cite and properly establish your source as an expert in their field.

General Resources and Websites

Farm Bureau:

- [American Farm Bureau Federation](#)
 - o [Issue Backgrounders](#)
 - o [Farm Bureau Advocacy Action Center](#)
- [American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture](#)

Government:

- [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)
 - o [National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\)](#)
 - o [Cooperative Extension Service](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency - Agriculture](#)
- [National Association of State Departments of Agriculture](#)
- [Selected Federal Agencies with a Role in Food Safety](#)
- [GovTrack.us](#)
- [Farmers.gov](#)

Media:

- [Farm Journal Media](#)
- [AgDaily](#)

Other:

- [American Farmland Trust](#)
- [American Lands Council](#)
- [Animal Agriculture Alliance](#)
- [Beginning Farmers](#)
- [National Agriculture in the Classroom](#)
- [U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance \(USFRA\)](#)