



## Young Farmer and Rancher Regular Discussion Meet

**November 13, 2021 in Cody**  
**Application deadline is November 1, 2021**

### **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 2021 WyFB Regular Discussion Meet will be November 13, 2021 in Cody.**  
*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 Regular Discussion Meet will receive:

- \$500 cash from the **Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation**.
- Eligibility and travel expense reimbursement to compete in the 2022 American Farm Bureau Federation YF&R Discussion Meet in Atlanta, Georgia January 7-12, 2022.



## **Competitor Qualifications**

1. Competitors shall be Farm Bureau regular members in good standing with their county Farm Bureau and between the ages of 18 and 35. The individual shall have reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> 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.
2. Individuals who have competed in a previous AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet or AFBF Discussion Meet are ineligible.
3. Past and present AFBF YF&R committee members are ineligible.
4. 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.
5. 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 Regular 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 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**

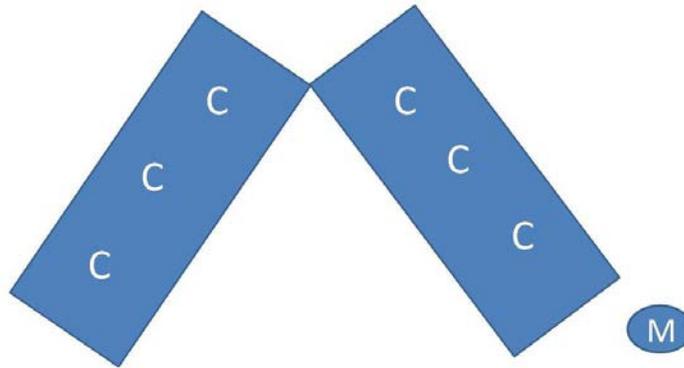
1. Discussion Meet Orientation
  - a. All competitors are required to attend.
  - b. Roll call of competitors.
  - c. Release of Discussion Meet topic time schedule.
    - First Round topic will be announced during Orientation
    - Each subsequent round topic announced at close of prior round
  - d.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

### **Competition**

1. All competitors will compete in a preliminary round of competition. Each round will have four to six competitors. (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 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**



```

x J x x x x x x x T      x x x x x x x x x x
  x x x x x x x x x x    x x x x x x J x x x
    x x x x x x x J x x  x x x 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 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.

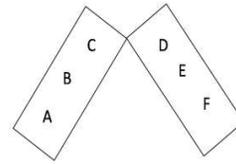
1. The winner will be determined by judges' ranking, and ties will be resolved before the judges are dismissed.
  - Ties will be broken at the end of each of the preliminary round competitions and the Final Four by an automatic procedure using Problem Solving and Implementation as the first tie breaker, 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 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.

## **Discussion Meet Topics for 2021 Discussion Meet**

1. How can Farm Bureau improve its effectiveness at recruiting YF&R members and increasing participation in YF&R programs?
2. COVID revealed several cracks involving the processing of livestock. How can Farm Bureau policy support easing government regulations to ensure long-term economic viability for local animal processing facilities, while ensuring the health of workers and that a healthy product is still delivered to consumers?
3. Studies show more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health issues. What can farmers, ranchers and Farm Bureau do to proactively promote good mental health in both themselves and their communities?
4. Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries. What can we, as young farmers and ranchers, do to create a more preventative, rather than reactive, approach to farm safety in our communities?
5. As the world population increases, so will the need for renewable resources. On a local level and across the globe, how can Farm Bureau help farmers and ranchers continue to increase their efficiency in the use of valuable resources and transition to “Green Energy” practices on their farm or ranch?

# Discussion Meet Scoresheet

Room Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Round # \_\_\_\_\_



In the first column, you will find the point values and descriptions. See rubric for additional detail. The total point value for each row is available for each contestant. You are not dividing the total points among contestants. **No ties.**

Columns to the right each represent a different contestant. Please fill in the first and last name of each competitor according to their seat location. Refer to the diagram for help. Put scores in the larger spaces and rank in the smaller boxes.

	Comp A Name:	Comp B Name:	Comp C Name:	Comp D Name:	Comp E Name:	Comp F Name:
(1) <b>OPENING STATEMENT:</b> <b>10 pts.</b> Defines problem; conveys importance and relevance; sets the stage for an interesting discussion; clear point of view; uses time wisely						
(2) <b>ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM:</b> <b>20 pts.</b> Has thoroughly researched topic; builds on the ideas of others to help achieve coherent analysis; asks relevant questions; helps ensure thorough analysis before problem solving; aware of relevant FB policy	<input type="text"/>					
(3) <b>PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION:</b> <b>25 pts.</b> Leader in guiding the conversation to specific and relevant solutions; has achievable and specific plan of action; clearly defines how FB is part of the action plan.	<input type="text"/>					
(4) <b>COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE:</b> <b>15 pts.</b> Active listener; comments on specific ideas mentioned by others and ties them back to the bigger conversation; shows grace, courtesy and respect to others; shows integrity especially when they do not agree	<input type="text"/>					
(5) <b>DELIVERY:</b> <b>15 pts.</b> Interesting to listen to; animated; appropriate volume and tone; poised; uses gestures and eye contact; confident and clear						
(6) <b>CLOSING STATEMENT:</b> <b>15 pts.</b> Shows that they have listened to the conversation; develops relevant and realistic plans; memorable; inspires confidence						
Total score for each contestant is to be tabulated by Judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by Judge. Total of 100 points possible. <b>TOTAL</b>						
Rank contestants: 1 (highest) through (6 lowest). <b>RANK</b>						

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Room Chair's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Discussion Meet Scoring Rubric

<p>(1) OPENING STATEMENT <b>10 pts.</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not address the problem – is off topic.</li> <li>• Does not address the importance or relevancy of the problem.</li> <li>• Makes a “closed” statement that does not allow room for further conversation.</li> <li>• Does not seem to have a point of view.</li> <li>• Does not finish in the allotted time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 0-3 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defines the problem.</li> <li>• Sets the problem in context.</li> <li>• Makes a statement that leaves some room for further conversation but could be more open.</li> <li>• Has a general point of view.</li> <li>• Stays in the given time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 4-6 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly defines the problem.</li> <li>• Conveys the importance and relevancy of the problem.</li> <li>• Makes an “open” statement that leaves room for further conversation.</li> <li>• Sets the stage for an interesting conversation with a very clear point of view.</li> <li>• Uses their time very wisely and stays in the given time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 7-10 points</b></p>
<p>(2) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: <b>20 pts.</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not address the problem or does not remain on topic/wanders/distracts.</li> <li>• Hasn't done much research or lacks quality facts.</li> <li>• Doesn't build on other's ideas, only pushes their own.</li> <li>• Doesn't ask questions to clarify other's ideas.</li> <li>• Doesn't share relevant personal examples.</li> <li>• Misinterprets the issue or does not display competency and therefore does not help with problem solving.</li> <li>• Is unaware of FB policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 0-5 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies the causes of the problem, does not directly address them, but remains on topic.</li> <li>• Has done research.</li> <li>• Addresses the ideas of others but does not build upon them – or only drops in information they learned without connecting it to previous ideas and moving the conversation forward.</li> <li>• Asks some questions to help vet the ideas of others.</li> <li>• Shares relevant personal examples – may be slightly off topic.</li> <li>• Demonstrates knowledge of this problem but not why it exists.</li> <li>• Is aware of current FB policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 6-12 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies and addresses the causes of the problem and remains on topic.</li> <li>• Has thoroughly researched the topic.</li> <li>• Confidently builds on the ideas of others to contribute to a coherent analysis</li> <li>• Asks relevant questions to vet the ideas of others.</li> <li>• Shares relevant personal examples that add to the conversation.</li> <li>• Helps ensure thorough analysis before moving to problem solving.</li> <li>• Is aware of current and relevant FB policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 13-20 points</b></p>

# Discussion Meet Scoring Rubric (continued)

<p>(3) PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION <b>25 pts.</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instead of helping to guide the conversation to a solution, just data drops.</li> <li>• Offers no plan for a solution or a generic plan like "tell our story" or "educate consumers."</li> <li>• Does not identify how Farm Bureau is involved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 0-6 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tries to help lead the conversation to address a solution but misses opportunities to collaborate with the group.</li> <li>• Has a plan but is missing specificity.</li> <li>• Farm Bureau is mentioned but is not a crucial piece of the solution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 7-16 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is a leader in guiding the group and the conversation to specific and relevant solutions.</li> <li>• Generates ideas that contribute to an achievable and specific plan of action to resolve the issue.</li> <li>• Clearly defines how Farm Bureau is part of the action plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 17-25 points</b></p>
<p>(4) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: <b>15 pts.</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not listen to others – just waits for their turn to talk.</li> <li>• Cuts others off or simply repeats what others have already said.</li> <li>• Is rude, defensive or combative when they do not agree with others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 0-4 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contestant listens to others but does not comment specifically on their ideas or tie ideas back to the bigger conversation.</li> <li>• Is respectful of others.</li> <li>• Is not rude or defensive when they disagree with others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 5-9 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is an active listener and comments on references or specific ideas mentioned by others tying them back to the bigger conversation.</li> <li>• Clearly shows grace, courtesy and respect to other participants.</li> <li>• Shows integrity especially when they do not agree with others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 10-15 points</b></p>
<p>(5) DELIVERY: <b>15 pts.</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is boring/ mumbling/ monotoned.</li> <li>• Slouches, does not use appropriate gestures or have eye contact</li> <li>• Ideas are difficult to understand, or they are not confident in speaking.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 0-4 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaks at an appropriate volume and pace with appropriate tone.</li> <li>• Uses effective posture, gestures and eye contact.</li> <li>• Conveys thoughts and viewpoints but could seem overly rehearsed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 5-9 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is interesting to listen to, animated and lively, speaks at an appropriate volume and with a professional and courteous tone.</li> <li>• Is poised and uses gestures and eye contact that emit respect and professionalism.</li> <li>• Confidently conveys thoughts and viewpoints clearly.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 10-15 points</b></p>
<p>(6) CLOSING STATEMENT: <b>15 pts.</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not accurately summarize the conversation.</li> <li>• Uses memorized speech that doesn't reflect the content of the conversation.</li> <li>• Closing statement is forgettable.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 0-4 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarizes the conversation that happened.</li> <li>• Uses take-away points from the discussion to help develop a plan.</li> <li>• Closing statement is memorable.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 5-9 points</b></p>	<p><b>Contestant...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows that they have actively listened to the conversation in their summary.</li> <li>• Uses take away points from the discussion to develop relevant, realistic and specific action items and plans for the future.</li> <li>• Closing statement is memorable and inspires confidence in their ability to work toward a solution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 10-15 points</b></p>



## Discussion Meet and Collegiate Discussion Meet Best Practices – 2022

- **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. The first call will cover the Discussion Meet format and tips for success; the other calls will focus on the Farm Bureau policy related to the Discussion Meet questions. 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 and policy.** Take time to review county, state and American Farm Bureau history and policy 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](#)
- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [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 in ACTION](#)