

California Farm Bureau Federation 2016 Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet

Background

The Discussion Meet is a competitive event promoted by the California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) Young Farmers & Ranchers (YR&R) Committee. Farm Bureau's strength depends on its members' abilities to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The competitive event 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. **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.** The California Farm Bureau provides, as part of the state recognition award to the winner, an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF Annual Meeting held in 2017 in Phoenix, AZ. Appropriate recognition will be given to all the national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Meeting. The AFBF YF&R Committee and the AFBF Organization Department will coordinate the program at the national level.

Information about the Discussion Meet participant is requested on the entry form. ALL INFORMATION IS HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

Eligibility

- Participant shall be a Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with his/her county Farm Bureau. The individual shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31.
- Participant must be actively engaged in agriculture.
- Participant may only compete in one national YF&R Competitive Event per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse/spousal-equivalents are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Discussion Meet winners and/or previous AFBF Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureaus and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.
- 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.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- The application must be properly signed.

Note: Disregarding any of the guidelines listed above will result in disqualification.

Competition

- The participants will discuss pre-selected topics using four bases for the general discussion: cooperation, constructive criticism, problem solving and communication.
- The competitive event will consist of four rounds: two Round Robins, Elite Eight and Final Four.
 - All competitors will compete in the first two rounds. The top eight competitors based on judges' scores will move on to the Elite Eight round.
 - The top two competitors in each of the third round rooms will move on to the Final Four round in order to determine the winner.
- Each round will begin with a 30-second opening statement and end with a one-minute closing statement by each participant.
- During the Round Robins and Elite Eight, participants will have 25 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time.
- During the Final Four round, participants will have 30 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time.

Note: More detailed information regarding the competitive event can be found in the AFBF Discussion Meet Manual.

**California Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet
2016 Entry Form Application**

Applicant *: _____ Member Number: _____

** Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Education/Degree: _____

Spouse/Spousal-Equivalent's Name: _____

I hereby certify the information on this entry form to be accurate and true statements. **CFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A COLLEGE OR A COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** CFBF reserves the right to use my photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. The photos and/or video footage of the undersigned contestant may also be available to sponsors of Farm Bureau events. By participating in the Event, I warrant that I fully and unconditionally agree to and accept the YF&R official contest rules and the decisions of the YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby certify that the above named applicant(s) is eligible to be entered in and considered for CFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Collegiate Discussion Meet for 2016.

President/County Manager Signature: _____ Date: _____

Discussion Meet participants will be required to register for the 98th CFBF Annual Meeting. Please visit <http://www.cfbf.com/am2016/> for more information about Annual Meeting.

All Discussion Meet Applications must be received at the CFBF office by 4:30 p.m. October 31, 2016.

Please submit completed applications by one of the following methods to:

Mail: CA Farm Bureau Federation
Attn: Young Farmers & Ranchers
2300 River Plaza Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

Email: yfr@cfbf.com

Fax: 916-561-4507