



DISCUSSION MEET

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Discussion Meet competitive event simulates a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. 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.

DISCUSSION MEET TOPICS:

- 1** Getting involved in state or local politics allows you to directly influence policies that significantly impact a farmer's livelihood. What challenges prevent young farmers from engaging, and how can Farm Bureau provide the support needed to overcome these barriers?
- 2** What are some key issues facing farmers in our state, and how can Farm Bureau address these challenges to support the sustainability and growth of local agriculture?
- 3** Every year there are less people returning to the farm and production agriculture. How can Farm Bureau encourage young people to get involved in agriculture and in their county Farm Bureau organizations?

PRIZE PACKAGE:

First Place

- o Young Farmer Essentials Gift Card Bundle (\$2,000 value) from Iowa Farm Bureau
- o \$1,500 cash award from GROWMARK
- o Expense paid trip to the 2026 AFBF Annual Convention in Anaheim, CA January 9-13, 2026 to compete in the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet
- o Expense paid trip to the 2026 IFBF Young Farmer Conference January 23-24, 2026

Second Place

- o Young Farmer Essentials Gift Card Bundle (\$1,000 value) from Iowa Farm Bureau
- o \$500 cash award from GROWMARK

Third Place

- o Young Farmer Essentials Gift Card Bundle (\$750 value) from Iowa Farm Bureau
- o \$250 cash award from GROWMARK

Fourth Place

- o Young Farmer Essentials Gift Card Bundle (\$500 value) from Iowa Farm Bureau
- o \$250 cash award from GROWMARK

Taxes are the responsibility of the award winner.



SCHEDULE:

Iowa Preliminaries:

January 17-18, 2025 during the 2025 Young Farmer Conference in Des Moines
After two rounds, the top ten semi-finalists will be determined

Iowa Finals:

Semi-finalists will compete **December 9-10, 2025** at the 2025 Iowa Farm Bureau Annual Meeting & County Leadership Conference in Des Moines

Nationals:

The Iowa winner will compete **January 9-13, 2026** during the 2026 American Farm Bureau Convention in Anaheim, California

ELIGIBILITY:

Must be 35 years of age or younger as of Jan. 31, 2026, and a regular member in good standing with your county Farm Bureau. Previous state winners and current Young Farmer Advisory Committee members are ineligible. Participants may not have received a public speaking fee or honorarium.

REGISTRATION:

The preliminary Discussion Meet rounds will take place at the 2025 Young Farmer Conference January 17-18, 2025 in Des Moines.

Conference registration is open December 2, 2024 - January 3, 2025 through your local county Farm Bureau.

Discussion Meet registration will open Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Whova conference app. Limited to 30 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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