

Wisconsin Farm Bureau
**Young Farmer
and Agriculturist**
Program



2020 Discussion Meet Guide

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Competition Objectives

As a leadership training and self-improvement activity, the Discussion Meet experience will:

- Stimulate logical thinking and a desire for accurate information.
- Develop a concise and direct manner of speaking.
- Improve the ability to listen.
- Aid the participant in overcoming timidity or stage fright.
- Assist the individual in the practice of giving and receiving criticism in a helpful manner.
- Teach the value of compromise.
- Develop leaders for effective problem solving through group discussion.

Background Information

- The Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee.
- 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 farmers and agriculturists. 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.
- The Discussion Meet is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each committee member.
- The competitors will discuss pre-selected topics.
- The four fundamental bases of general discussion:
 - 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.

Competitor Qualifications

- The WFBF District Discussion Meet contest is for county Farm Bureau members who have their county Farm Bureau membership in one of the counties which comprise that district.
- Competitors shall be a Farm Bureau member in good standing with their county Farm Bureau and be between the ages of 18 and 35. They shall not have reached their 36th birthday by January 31 of the year in which they will compete at the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Individuals who have been a WFBF Discussion Meet state winner are ineligible.
- Members of the WFBF YFA Committee are ineligible to compete unless the committee member is in their last year of YFA program eligibility.
- Past and present AFBF YF&R committee members are ineligible.
- Competitors must be actively involved in agriculture to be eligible.
- 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.
- County, state and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible; this also includes affiliated companies.
- All District winners participating in the WFBF state Discussion Meet contest must attend the YFA Orientation Meeting, which will be held prior to the contest at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on Saturday, December 5, 2020, at 7:45 a.m. at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.
- A member or couple, if applicable, may be a state winner of only one WFBF YFA contest in any given year. Participants may enter more than one contest; however, they may only be a state winner in one contest.

Helpful Hints for Competitors

- Study as much material as possible relating to the overall topic. Sources: internet, 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.
- 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 and stay within the time limit.

Keys for a Successful Discussion Meet Contestant

1. Know how to play the game:

- a. **Background:** Most businesses and organizations have a top-down organizational structure; with a national headquarters dictating to the state organization which dictates to the local organization. The opposite is true for Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau is a bottom-up organization. The power of our organization is held and wielded at the local (county) level. Annually, each county Farm Bureau establishes a policy development committee and holds a policy development session to discuss current agricultural topics and issues.

The Discussion Meet contest mirrors our counties' policy development committee sessions. Thus, the contest judges are looking for cooperative and constructive discussion of the topic which leads to workable and actionable solutions – not a debate of the topic. The judges are looking for the person or persons who stand out as the committee chair.

- b. **Be recognized as the committee chair:** A good committee chair is very cooperative. There are six criteria on the judge's score card: 1) Problem Solving and Implementation, 2) Analysis of Topic or Problem, 3) Cooperative Attitude, 4) Delivery, 5) Opening Statement, and 6) Closing Statement. Problem Solving and Implementation is worth 200 points followed by Analysis of the Topic or Problem at 150 points and Cooperative Attitude at 100 points. To be successful in this contest, you must score as the top one or two in Problem Solving and Implementation and Analysis of the Topic. An effective committee chair is the person who cooperatively leads the discussion. The person who endeavors to make sure all sides of the issue are explored, even a side they may not agree with, and all committee members (contestants) have their voices heard. A good committee chair will introduce a point to be discussed, make a strong statement concerning that point and then hand off the discussion to a fellow contestant by asking that person a question using that person's name. Remember, this is a cooperative and constructive discussion, so the questions you ask a fellow contestant should help move the discussion forward. A good committee chair works to get the best ideas out of his/her fellow committee members. A good committee chair makes sure each committee member shares their thoughts and opinions. If a fellow contestant is being quiet or has been left out of the conversation, a good committee chair asks that person a question and gets them involved in the conversation. A good committee chair keeps the discussion on topic. A good committee chair doesn't interrupt or talk over others while they are speaking. At the five-minute warning, when the yellow card is displayed by the timekeeper at 20 minutes of discussion, a good committee chair will attempt to bring the group to consensus on workable and actionable solutions to the topic being discussed. Do this by stating at least one action you will take to make a difference as it relates to the topic and then ask your fellow contestants what they are going to do to make a difference.

NOTE: It is very important to make strong points during the discussion; however, it is **also important** to be seen as the **Committee Chair!**

2. **Understand the contest structure:** The contest has an opening (30-second opening statement), a body (25 minutes of open discussion) and a closing (one-minute closing statement). A good model of logic to follow is: **In the opening, tell them what you are going to tell them. In the body, tell them. In the closing, tell them what you told them.**

- a. **Opening statement:** You have 30 seconds. It is critical you grab the attention of the judges in your opening statement. You may do that by using a quote from a famous person who relates to the topic being discussed or by telling a quick personal story that makes an emotional connection with the judges. After your strong opening sentence, tell us what you are going to tell us. Quickly outline the main points you would like to discuss during the 25-minute open discussion.
- b. **Discussion:** You have 25 minutes. It is critical to be seen as the committee chair. Lead the discussion using the sub-topics you have developed for each contest topic. Make your points and hand off the discussion by asking a question using your fellow contestant's name. Try to come at the topic from a unique point-of-view and make sure many points of view are discussed. At the five-minute warning, yellow card displayed by timekeeper, make sure you try to bring the group to consensus by developing workable and actionable solutions for the topic being discussed.
- c. **Closing statement:** You have one-minute. It is critical you finish strong. Do this by quickly summarizing one main point each of your fellow contestants made during the discussion. Don't use the closing statement to bring up a new point in the discussion that wasn't covered before. State what you believe are the solutions the discussion produced and the action you will take to make a difference. With your closing, you are figuratively putting a bow on the package, the one you began wrapping with your opening statement, for the judges. Make sure your final sentence is powerful and memorable - plant your flag!
- d. **Discussion Meet topics:** There are five contest topics. Only one topic will be used at the District Discussion Meet contest. Only four topics will be used at the state contest. One topic will not be used; however, you must prepare for all five topics. Create four to five sub-topics or sub-points you want to discuss for each main topic. Developing sub-topics will help you lead the discussion.

The topics used at the state contest will be drawn out of a hat during the competitor orientation at the Kalahari Resort on Saturday, December 5. The first two topics drawn will be used for Rounds 1 and 2. All contestants participate in Rounds 1 and 2. After Rounds 1 and 2, we do a sum of the judges' ranks and the top eight contestants make the Semi-Finals, which are composed of two groups of four contestants. The third topic drawn will be used for the Semi-Finals. The top two ranked contestants from each Semi-Final group make the Final 4. The Final is held at 9 am on Sunday morning, December 6, at the Kalahari Resort. The fourth topic drawn will be the topic for the state Final.

3. General pointers:

- a. **This is a Farm Bureau contest:** As a Farm Bureau member, **YOU are Farm Bureau!** So, when mentioning Farm Bureau, make sure you personalize your statements. “We as Farm Bureau members should...” or “As a Farm Bureau member, I suggest...” Make sure you know how the topic relates to Farm Bureau policy at the local (county), state (Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation) and national (American Farm Bureau Federation) levels. Visit the WFBF website at www.wfbf.com and the AFBF website at www.fb.org. Check us out on facebook and twitter. How can you work within Farm Bureau to help solve the challenges arising from the topic being discussed?
- b. **Speaking style:** The opening and closing statements are given standing and directed to the audience. Make sure you stand up with confidence and move behind your chair, push your chair in under the table, pause a beat to prepare yourself and the audience and then start your statement. Make good eye contact with members of the audience. Finish your statement, pause a beat, pull out your chair and be seated. Do not talk yourself out of your chair as you begin to speak or talk yourself down into your chair as you finish.

Most people talk faster than they think they do. This is especially true when nerves kick in during a speaking contest. Concentrate on slowing down and speaking clearly. Use a strong, clear, confident voice. Be aware of your facial expressions and body language. Always keep a smile on your face and maintain a confident body posture.

During open discussion, sit confidently in your chair – not too stiff but not a relaxed slouch either, make good eye contact with your fellow contestants, actually listen to what they have to say – don’t get focused in on the next point you want to make, think “yes, and...” to build on their points and the discussion.

- c. **Opening and closing statement strategy:** The opening and closing statements are given in voluntary order determined by the contestants. Most people believe the judges best remember the first person to speak and the last person to speak. Those speaking in the middle may get lost in the shuffle.

Going first shows you are very confident. Just make sure you are mentally prepared to deliver a strong opening statement.

Sometimes there is gamesmanship among experienced contestants in an attempt to be the last person to speak. Remember, Cooperative Attitude is scored, so be careful not to be seen as uncooperative in an effort to secure the final speaking position. If you go last for the opening and/or closing statement, you better nail it because your statement will be remembered!

- d. **Use of personal stories and facts:** Everyone loves a story. Tell personal stories that relate to the topic and make an emotional connection to your audience (the judges). Tell us about your home farm or your career, a lesson learned from your grandfather, your greatest challenge working with family...etc. Make it personal and make sure it relates to the topic.

Do a good job of researching the topic. Find some facts and figures you can cite to bring credibility to your thoughts. Don’t go overboard on facts and figures – a few sprinkled into the discussion go a long way. Using too many facts and figures will bore your audience (the judges).

- e. **Stay on topic:** You will only have four to six opportunities to speak during open discussion. When you speak, you must make strong points directly related to the topic. Don't get off topic and don't allow another contestant to lead the group off topic. A good committee chair keeps the discussion on topic.
- f. **Think outside the box and propose unique solutions:** Research the topics from all points of view. Really think about all sides and perspectives of the topic. Can you tackle this challenge from a direction no one else will consider? Having a unique perspective on solving the challenge will serve you well. Don't just take the farmer or ag professional's point-of-view. How will this affect consumers, suppliers, senior citizens, young people, ag educators, land grant universities, those who don't understand farming and ag, those trying to vilify farming and ag...etc?

Avoid the "education" trap. Almost every topic lends itself to the solution of "We just need to educate..." Most judges roll their eyes when they hear, "more education" for the 99th time. If you are going to suggest, "We need to educate..." you better come up with a very unique way of delivering that education because the judges have heard all the usual ways, and they are not going to be excited to hear it again.

- g. **Be very careful about using acronyms or farm/ag terms your audience (the judges) may not know or understand:** If you mention HSUS and PETA, you must first say, "The Humane Society of the United States, known as HSUS." or "The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, known as PETA." Once you've said the complete name, then you may use the acronym from that point forward. Don't expect all judges will know what a gilt or a gelding is. If you use ag-terms such as those, you need to give a brief explanation of what you are talking about.
- h. **Use proper English:** Watch your use of "umm", "like", "you know", "ya", "nope", "cuz", "ta", "I think" (if you are speaking, we know you think that. Stating the obvious weakens what you are saying.)
- i. **Attire:** Women should wear business dress: a dress, a pant suit, or blouse, jacket and skirt. Wearing bright colors or, at a minimum, a bright colored top works best for women. Men should wear business dress: a suit and tie or sport jacket, business slacks and tie.

Competition Format

1. All contest facilitators, competitors and judges will attend the District Discussion Meet contest orientation prior to the start of the competition to receive a short orientation. The competition facilitators are WFBF designated room chairs and WFBF 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. 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 WFBF Committee chair and/or the WFBF coordinator.
3. Discussion Meet questions will not be provided at the competition table during state and national level rounds of competition.
4. The room chair will call the meeting to order, announce the topic to be discussed and introduce the timekeeper and moderator. Any competitor not present at this time will be disqualified.
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 will raise a red timecard indicating when 30 seconds have 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 25 minutes. The discussion should be directed to the fellow competitors during open discussion.
8. At the 20-minute mark of open discussion, the timekeeper will raise a yellow card indicating there are five minutes of open discussion time remaining.
9. If the discussion is lagging, the moderator may close the discussion at this time.
10. The timekeeper will indicate to the moderator when 25 minutes have elapsed by raising the red timecard.
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. The timekeeper will raise the red timecard at one minute.
12. The moderator will invite each of the competitors, in voluntary order, to make their one-minute closing statement directed to the audience.
13. The timekeeper will raise a red timecard indicating when one minute has elapsed. Judges may subtract points at their discretion for competitors who abuse the time limit.
14. 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 chair has collected their tabulated score sheets.
15. The next round topic to be discussed will be announced.
16. The moderator will thank the panel and ask the audience to recognize their efforts. The moderator may then request the competitors to introduce themselves and discuss their involvement in agriculture for the audience.

Competition Structure

Orientations

- District Discussion Meet Orientation
 - a) Held just prior to the First Round.
 - b) All competitors are required to attend; roll call will be taken.
 - c) Release of Discussion Meet topic time schedule.
 - First Round topic will be announced in the competition room by Room Chair 10 minutes prior to start of First Round.
 - If necessary, each subsequent round topic will be announced at the close of the prior round.

- Judges' Orientation
 - a) Held 15 minutes prior to the start of the contest.
 - b) Review judge's duties in **Roles and Responsibilities of Competition Facilitators** along with any announcements.
 - c) Review timing sequences.
 - d) Allow time for questions.
 - e) Roll call of judges.

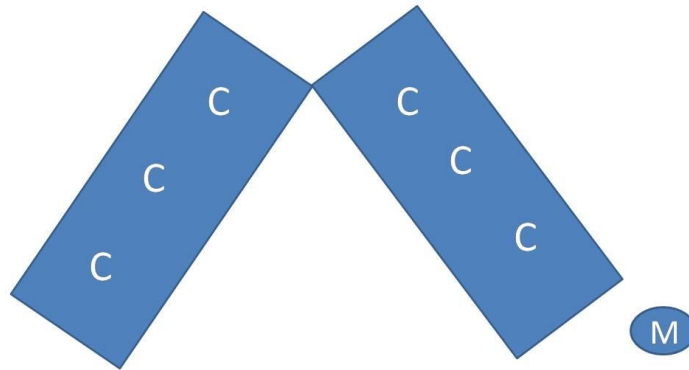
- Volunteer Orientation (Timekeeper)
 - a) Held in conjunction with the Judges' Orientation.
 - b) Roll call of timekeepers.
 - c) Distribution of time schedule.
 - d) Distribution of timecards.

Competition

- All competitors will compete in the first round of the district competition. The three top-ranked individuals qualify to compete at the state competition during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. If there are seven or more contestants prepared to compete at a district contest, the group will be split into one group of four and one group of three, or whatever combination is necessary. Contest facilitators will conduct a round for group one and group two using the same question/topic. Before group one begins their round, contest facilitators will direct those in group two to another location so they cannot see or hear group one's discussion. Before group two begins their round, contest facilitators will direct those in group one to another location so they cannot see or hear group two's discussion. The two top-ranked individuals from group one and the two top-ranked individuals from group two will now compete. Contest facilitators will hold another round with the same question/topic used during the first two rounds. The three top-ranked individuals from the final round qualify to compete at the state competition during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.

- 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 of 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 county.

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 x J x x x
x x x x x x J x x     x x x x x x x x x x
```

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. Create ways to implement the solution(s) discussed and highlight Farm Bureau's involvement in those actions/steps.
5. Elaborate all possible alternative solutions.
6. Evaluate and compare alternatives.
7. Test and project what appears to be the best solution(s).

Facilitators' Roles and Responsibilities

1. **Competition Chair's Duties**

- a) Familiarize yourself with the Discussion Meet manual.
- b) Conduct Discussion Meet Orientation Session at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Discussion Meet contest for competitors and judges.
 1. Make introductions.
 2. Give brief explanation of Discussion Meet competition procedures.
 3. Allow time for questions.
 4. Draw and announce topics to determine sequence to be used for the competition.
 5. Announce First Round topic during Orientation.
- c) Settle any and all disputes during the competition.

2. **Room Chair's Duties**

- a) Familiarize yourself with the Discussion Meet manual.
- b) Review Tally Sheet (**Appendix A & B**).
- c) Ensure all judges are present and check their identities. Report any changes to the moderator.
- d) Meet in the assigned room with competitors, judges, moderator and timekeeper to answer any questions they may have.
- e) Call the competition to order at the appointed time. Introduce the timekeeper and moderator. Announce topic to be discussed.
- f) Introduce and thank judges.
- g) Escort judges to the judges tabulating room at the end of the competition and allow them to finish tabulating and ranking the competitors. Assist judges in final ranking of competitors.
- h) Ensure each competitor has been ranked in all sections of the rating sheet.
- i) Supervise tiebreakers (See **Scoring**).

3. **Moderator's Duties**

- a) Familiarize yourself with the Discussion Meet manual.
- b) Become acquainted with competitors.
- c) Open the competition with the following to ensure that everyone understands the format:
 1. Welcome the audience.
 2. Introduce competitors from left to right by name.
 3. Announce topic to be discussed.
 4. Ask for competitors to make a 30-second opening statement in voluntary order.
 5. After the last opening statement, say "You have heard the opening statements; you may proceed with the discussion."
 6. End discussion at timekeeper's signal.
 7. Call for one-minute quiet time used to prepare closing statements.
 8. Call for one-minute closing statement, in a voluntary order.
 9. Thank the competitors.
 10. Dismiss room chair and judges for tabulation.
 11. Announce the topic for the next round.
 12. Give competitors the opportunity to introduce themselves and describe their operations.
 13. Announce the time and location of the next competition.

Note: The moderator should not comment on the topic or encourage discussion. This is the responsibility of the competitors. However, if the discussion seems to really be lagging, the moderator should use their best judgment to end the discussion when the timekeeper indicates five minutes remain in open discussion.

4. Timekeeper's Duties

- a) Familiarize yourself with the Discussion Meet manual.
- b) Go to assigned competition room 15 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.
- c) Meet with room chair, moderator and competitors for last minute questions.
- d) Indicate following timing points to the moderator and competitors as follows:
 1. The end of each 30-second opening statement. (Time elapsed - red card)
 2. Warning at 20 minutes of open discussion. (Five minutes remaining – yellow card).
Hold up card until all competitors have noted the warning.
 3. The end of 25 minutes of open discussion. (Time elapsed - red card)
 4. The end of one-minute quiet time. (Time elapsed - red card)
 5. The end of each competitor's one-minute closing statement. (Time elapsed - red card)

5. Judges' Duties

- a) Familiarize yourself with the Discussion Meet manual.
- b) Review discussion topics.
- c) Review Rating Sheet.
- d) Attend the Discussion Meet Judges Orientation Session.
- e) Go to assigned room 10 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.
- f) Meet with room chair and moderator for last minute questions.
 1. Remain seated until your room chair calls for you to leave the room to do the final tabulating of your score sheet.
- d) Judges should:
 1. List competitors on Rating Sheet from left to right for ease in identification.
 2. Score competitors using the Rating Sheet.
 3. Total the scores.
 - i. **Note: There is a total of 700 possible points.**
 4. Determine and record ranking.
 5. Sign Rating Sheet.
 6. Select winners. (See **Scoring**)
- e) Judges should not:
 1. Sit near a fellow judge.
 2. Judge by applause.
 3. Confer with each other until all scores are tabulated.

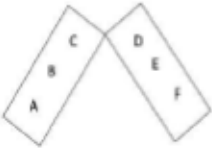
Scoring

The room chair 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 chair will assist the judges in determining the final ranking of the competition.

- a) The winners will be determined by judges' ranking, and ties will be resolved before the judges are dismissed.
 1. Ties will be broken at the end of each round(s) by an automatic procedure using Problem Solving and Implementation as the first tiebreaker, followed by Analysis of the topic or problem, respectfully. (See **Appendix A**) In the event of an irresolvable tie between all three categories, total points from judges' score sheets will be used to resolve the tie. The room chair will assist with this process.
- b) When possible, the above procedure should be conducted in a private room, with only the judges, room chair, and Discussion Meet chair present.

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>						

Judge's signature _____

**AFBF Discussion Meet
Official Tally Sheet**
Round 1 () Round 2 ()

Competitors Final Ranking

(In Seating Order)	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Final Rank
Brutus Buckeye	1	2	1	4	1
Herbie Husker	2	3	2	7	
Goldy Gopher	3	1	3	7	
Nittany Nellie	4	4	4	12	4

**You have a 1st and 4th place, but a tie for 2nd so move to the first tie breaker*

Competitors**Tie Breaker #1 – Problem Solving and Implementation**

(In Seating Order)	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Final Rank
Brutus Buckeye	1	2	1	4	1
Herbie Husker	2	3	2	7	
Goldy Gopher	3	1	3	7	
Nittany Nellie	4	4	4	12	4

**You still have a tie. Move to 2nd tie breaker*

Competitors**Tie Breaker #2 – Analysis of Topic**

(In Seating Order)	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Final Rank
Brutus Buckeye	1	2	1	4	1
Herbie Husker	3	1	3	7	
Goldy Gopher	2	3	2	7	
Nittany Nellie	4	4	4	12	4

**You still have a tie. Move to 3rd tie breaker*

Competitors**Tie Breaker #3 – Cooperative Attitude**

(In Seating Order)	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total	Final Rank
Brutus Buckeye	2	1	1	4	1
Herbie Husker	1	2	3	6	2
Goldy Gopher	3	3	2	8	3
Nittany Nellie	4	4	4	12	4

**There is finally a final rank. You now have a 2nd and 3rd place. Remember the rankings that are clear in the first box do not ever change, even if they were to fall from that rank in one of the tie breaker boxes.*

2020
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
YFA Discussion Meet Questions/Topics

Please Note: All 2020 District Discussion Meet contests will use and discuss Topic Question #4. The decline in rural populations is accelerated by a poor farm economy. What solutions would enhance the vibrancy and economic sustainability of agriculture and rural communities?

1. International trade is important to agriculture. We must continue working to build strong relations with existing customers while seeking out new trade partners to strengthen market stability. How can we enhance existing, and establish new and diverse foreign trading partners?
2. Connectivity underpins the modern economy. What mix of investment and policy initiatives can provide reliable broadband access to farmers, ranchers and rural America?
3. The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters creates additional risk for farmers and ranchers. What tools and production practices can be engaged to reduce climate and weather risks?
4. The decline in rural populations is accelerated by a poor farm economy. What solutions would enhance the vibrancy and economic sustainability of agriculture and rural communities?
5. Is big data a big solution or big exposure? Technology tools are often cited as a method of increasing productivity and profitability, but there are liabilities that go along with technology. As young farmers and ranchers we are often first adopters. How do we ensure clear understanding of the risks and rewards of big data and smart farming?

**2020 Discussion Meet
District Winners
Application and Information Sheet**

Contestant's Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____ Email: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Married: Yes _____ No _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Farm Bureau Membership in the Name of: _____

I hereby certify that the above-named applicant is the _____ County representative in the Farm Bureau Discussion Meet and is eligible to enter and compete in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Discussion Meet.

Should our applicant be one of the Washington D.C. trip participants, our county Farm Bureau agrees to pay \$350 per person to participate in the WFBF YFA Washington D.C. trip.

County President : _____ Date: _____

WFBF 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 WFBF events.

Competitor: _____ Date: _____