



DRAFT

DISCUSSION MEET

The Discussion Meet helps young farmers build discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important ag issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach a consensus and solve problems.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS: January 29

The 2022 Discussion Meet will begin with preliminary rounds at the 2022 Young Farmers Conference on January 28-29 in Des Moines. After two rounds, the top eight finalists will be determined. Final rounds are held during the Iowa Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in December 2022.

ELIGIBILITY

Must be 35 years of age or younger as of Jan. 31, 2023, 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.

DISCUSSION MEET TOPICS

1. Animal agriculture is an important part of Iowa's economy and a vital protein source. The pandemic amplified the complexity and challenges of our current food supply chain and raised new questions and concerns with consumers. What role can farmers play to help restore consumers' confidence in the food supply system, provide more choices to consumers and protect farmers' livelihoods?
2. With the current low profit margins in traditional farming operations and limited access of land, many young farmers are looking to diversify with other crops, livestock markets, and value-added opportunities. What role can Farm Bureau play in helping young farmers accomplish their goal of generating additional income on the farming operation through niche markets and value-added agricultural?
3. Farm life can be demanding and stressful, especially for young farmers. The ongoing challenges with the pandemic, trade wars, natural disasters and volatile commodity prices can impact a farmer's mental health. What can be done to help young farmers experiencing mental health challenges?

REGISTRATION

Register for the Discussion Meet (preliminary rounds) taking place at the Young Farmer Conference, January 28-29 in Des Moines. Contact your county Farm Bureau to register for the conference.

PRIZES

First Place

- \$2,500 Cat® Dealer gift certificate
- \$1,500 cash from GROWMARK
- Expense paid trip to 2023 AFBF Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico to compete in the AFBF Discussion Meet
- Expense paid trip to 2023 IFBF Young Farmer Conference

Second Place

- Choice Hotels certificate for 50,000 points (\$500 value)
- \$500 Cat® Dealer gift certificate
- \$500 gift card to FAST STOP or local FS Cooperative from GROWMARK

Third Place

- \$500 Cat® Dealer gift certificate
- YETI cooler from FBFS (\$300 value)
- Adventureland package: 6 park passes and cabana rental (\$400 value)

Fourth Place

- \$250 gift card to FAST STOP or local FS Cooperative from GROWMARK
- Adventureland package: 6 park passes and cabana rental (\$400 value)
- \$100 from YF Program



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