



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 From Farm Bill negotiations to local ordinances, agricultural policy impacts every farmer. How can Farm Bureau encourage young farmer members to understand and engage in the policy making process at all levels of government?
- 2 Technology is always advancing agricultural practices. What role can Farm Bureau play in equipping young farmers with the digital skills and practical experience they need while also addressing barriers to access, such as cost and connectivity?
- 3 Young farmers have powerful stories to tell but making an impact means listening as much as speaking. What tools, training, or support could Farm Bureau offer to help young farmers become trusted, effective communicators with today's consumers, policymakers, and industry leaders?

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 2027 AFBF Annual Convention in Charlotte, NC January 8-13, 2027 to compete in the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet
- o Expense paid trip to the 2027 IFBF Young Farmer Conference January 22-23, 2027

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:

Saturday, **January 24, 2026** during the 2026 Young Farmer Conference in Des Moines
After two rounds, the top ten semi-finalists will be determined

Iowa Finals:

Semi-finalists will compete Tuesday, **December 8, 2026** at the 2026 Iowa Farm Bureau Annual Meeting & County Leadership Conference in Des Moines

Nationals:

The Iowa winner will compete **January 8-13, 2027** during the 2027 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina

ELIGIBILITY:

Must be 35 years of age or younger as of Jan. 31, 2027, and a regular member in good standing with your county Farm Bureau. Previous state winners, current Young Farmer Advisory Committee members, and current employees or agents of Farm Bureau are ineligible. Participants may not have received a public speaking fee or honorarium.

REGISTRATION:

The preliminary Discussion Meet rounds will take place at the 2026 Young Farmer Conference January 24, 2026 in Des Moines.

Conference registration is open December 1, 2025 - January 9, 2026 through your local county Farm Bureau.

Discussion Meet registration will open Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Whova conference app. Limited to 36 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



JOHN SANDBOTHE
Field Service Manager

(515) 225-5407
JSandbothe@ifbf.org