



VF COLLEGIATE Discussion Meet **2019 CONTEST GUIDE**



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What is a Discussion Meet?

The Discussion Meet is a contest sponsored by the MFB State Young Farmer Committee.

The contest itself involves a moderator and contestants. The moderator's responsibility is to introduce the topic, the contestants, start the discussion, keep it on track and see that no one person monopolizes the time. The contestants discuss a pre-selected topic.

The three fundamental basics of general discussion are constructive criticism, cooperation and communication. With this in mind, the participant's responsibility is to exchange ideas and information in an effort to solve a problem. The discussion should not be "conversation" or aimless talk nor should the participant take the role of a persuasive speaker. The participant should attempt to cooperatively shed further light on the problem and retain a flexible position. A successful participant is a productive thinker, rather than an emotional persuader, who is free to state beliefs and change positions whenever new information and ideas make that a reasonable thing to do.

Finally, this is not a panel symposium where each participant, makes a presentation. Rather, it is an exercise in cooperative problem solving, with the questions, answers and statements coming from any participant at any time.

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 problem or need.
4. Elaborate all possible solutions.
5. Evaluate and compare solutions.
6. Test and project what appears to be the best solution.
7. Arrive at ways to implement the solution.

Purpose of a Discussion Meet

The strength of Farm Bureau is largely in its ability to involve members in analyzing their agricultural problems and deciding on solutions which best fit their needs. Experience has proven the Discussion Meet will provide an opportunity for greater participation on the part of young, active collegiate leaders interested in agriculture. It will help them develop a greater command of basic discussion skills. They will acquire a better understanding of how people can think in groups for the sake of better understanding all potential solutions.

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

1. Stimulate logical thinking and a desire for accurate information.
2. Develop a concise and convenient manner of speaking.
3. Develop listening skills.
4. Help the participant overcome timidity or stage fright.
5. Learn how to give and receive constructive criticism.
6. Teach the value of compromise.
7. Develop leaders with problem-solving skills while successfully collaborating with others.

Parts of a Discussion Meet

There are three parts to a Discussion Meet contest: the opening statement, body of discussion and the closing statement.

- A. The opening statement is **30 seconds** in length. The statement should be broad in scope, show relevancy and importance of the topic.
- B. The body of the discussion will be **20 minutes** in length. During the body of the discussion, first background the topic, discuss why it is an issue, come up with solutions to the issue and be sure to bring Farm Bureau into the discussion.
- C. The closing statement is given at the end of the discussion. Contestants will be given **one minute** of quiet time to put their closing statements together. Closing statements should summarize the discussion that took place during the body. The closing statement should not be "canned" and is one minute or less.

Scoring

Contestants will be scored in six areas:

1. Opening statement (50 points)
2. Closing statement (100 points)
3. Delivery (100 points)
4. Problem solving and implementation (200 points)
5. Analysis of the topic or problem (150 points)
6. Cooperative attitude (100 points)

A sample scoresheet is attached. As a reminder; this is a discussion, not a debate.

Official Rules

1. Contestant shall be a member of a recognized Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter as set up by Michigan Farm Bureau and be between the ages of 18 and 35. The individual shall have reached his/her 18th birthday and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by the last day of February 2020.
2. Contestant must be an undergraduate college student. Undergraduate status is determined at the time of the state competition.
3. Contestant shall not be enrolled in a graduate-level program at the time of the state Collegiate Discussion Meet competition.
4. Contestant must display a sincere interest in the agricultural industry.
5. Contestant may only compete in one national Young Farmer and Rancher Competition per year.
6. A student cannot win both the Collegiate and Young Farmer Discussion Meet in the same year. However, they may compete in both.
7. Members of the State Young Farmer Committee, state board of directors and/or their spouse/spousal-equivalent are not eligible to compete.

8. Past state Collegiate Discussion Meet winners and/or previous AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete.
9. Past state Young Farmer Discussion Meet winners and/or previous AFBF Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete.
10. Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureaus and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.
11. 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 for the appearance.
12. Each Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter may submit two entries to be considered for state recognition and must report these entrants as well as up to two alternates to Michigan Farm Bureau by November 15.
13. In the event one of a chapter's Discussion Meet applicants is unable to attend the state contest, alternates will be given the opportunity. Selection will be in the order ranked by the judges.

Suggestions for Contestants

1. Make the decision to enter the Discussion Meet as far in advance of the actual meet as possible.
2. Learn as much as possible about the procedure of the Discussion Meet.
3. Acquaint yourself with the topics that will be used.
4. Study as much material as possible related to the topics.
5. The day of the contest arrive at least fifteen minutes early for the orientation and instructions.
 - a. Become acquainted with the other contestants and moderator.
 - b. Ask questions to clarify any instructions that are not clear.

- c. Listen carefully to the moderator as he/she outlines the procedures.
6. During the contest:
 - a. Listen carefully to the moderator as he/she familiarizes the audience with what is about to take place.
 - b. Listen carefully to the other contestants as they make their opening statements.
 - c. Keep within the time limit of your opening statement.
 - d. There should be a conflict of ideas, but not of personalities. **Remember, this is a discussion, not a debate.**
 - e. Ask questions, state facts and opinions and urge others to be specific.
 - f. Acknowledge the audience, but not to the exclusion of the other contestants.
 - g. Participate whenever it will contribute to furthering the discussion without monopolizing the time. Be enthusiastic and, in general, use logic rather than emotion.
 - h. Make **notes of key points as the discussion proceeds**; you will use them to develop your summary statement.
 - i. Use your one minute of silence to organize your summary statement.
 - j. Stand and make your closing statement to the audience - use accepted speech techniques - stay within the time limit.

Chapter Discussion Meet Procedures

Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) regional representatives and Michigan Farm Bureau staff will work in tandem with the collegiate advisor to prepare and execute the contest. The Michigan Farm Bureau High School & Collegiate Programs Department will take the lead on preparing for the event, gathering registrations and making copies. Collegiate Advisors are encouraged to reach out to their MFB regional representatives to assist in securing judges and lead the program the day-of the contest. Collegiate advisors will also handle the room setup and secure time keepers and moderators.

Here's a generalized step-by-step planning guide. Please feel free to reach out to the MFB High School & Collegiate Specialist to help work through any question, situation, or concern to set your collegiate members up for success:

August

- ❑ MFB provides collegiate advisors with all paperwork and training materials to prepare and conduct the Fall Chapter Discussion Meet.
- ❑ Collegiate Advisor works with chapter officers to select date, location, and time of Discussion Meet. Suggestions: During a chapter meeting, in conjunction with a college course, paired with a fall business/industry tour.
- ❑ Collegiate Advisor contacts MFB with date, location, and time of their Discussion Meet as well as any additional needs for their Discussion Meet.

September

- ❑ MFB will send Collegiate Advisors judges' gifts, and any additional items needed to conduct Collegiate Discussion Meets.
- ❑ Collegiate Advisor, with the assistance of the MFB regional rep and MFB state staff, begins confirming judges. Each round will need two to three judges. The same judges can serve in both the semi and final rounds. Judges should be familiar with the contest and should not be related to or employ any of the contestants. Judges could include:
 - Michigan Farm Bureau District directors
 - District State Young Farmer and/or Promotion & Education Committee members
 - Surrounding county Young Farmer chairs/committee members
 - Surrounding county board members
 - Local farmers/agribusiness people with discussion meet experience
 - Retired agriscience teachers
 - College professors and staff
 - Local/retired MSU Extension staff members
 - Michigan Farm Bureau staff
 - Michigan Farm Bureau Collegiate advisors and/or members
- ❑ Collegiate Advisor will assign a Discussion Meet question for each round from the three Chapter Level questions. If you should need more than three questions, please contact the MFB High School & Collegiate Programs Department.



- ❑ Collegiate Advisor may utilize the Discussion Meet training materials and YouTube videos to increase the quality of discussion. Feel free to provide your chosen questions to participants to study and prepare for the Discussion Meet.

Chapter Level Questions:

Question One: Products like cell-based food products have demonstrated the food system is rapidly changing. How can future food technologies and related products be beneficially integrated into modern agriculture production without hampering the success of traditional products and the farmers and ranchers who grow them?

Question Two: The 21st-century agricultural economy is threatened by labor shortages. Without a clear solution for accessing foreign guest workers as a component of immigration reform coming from Congress, what are some creative and legal ways for agriculture to address the labor needs of a modern production system?

Question Three: The customer is always right. How do farmers and ranchers think and respond, through the lens of consumer priorities and marketing trends, to build common values and confidence in modern production methods to build consumer acceptance?

One Week Prior to Discussion Meet

- ❑ MFB High School & Collegiate Programs Department contacts Collegiate Advisor and Reg Rep to confirm Discussion Meet details.

Day of Discussion Meet

- ❑ Reference Collegiate Discussion Meet Step by Step Guide for complete To-Do List.

State Discussion Meet Overview

Michigan Farm Bureau High School & Collegiate Programs Department staff will contact the Collegiate Advisor of all state competitors to prepare for State Level competition.

Here's a generalized overview:

Prior to State Discussion Meet

- MFB High School & Collegiate Programs Department emails each state collegiate participants' advisor with a State Competition Registration Link. Please fill this link out by November 15 to assist with a quick turnaround between regionals and state competitions.
- If a student does not register by the deadline or is unable to attend, the first alternate within the same chapter will be contacted by the MFB High School & Collegiate Programs Department. MFB staff will continue down the chapter alternate list until both chapter spots are secured. Alternates from another chapter will not be allowed to fill a chapter's open spot.
- Each chapter will be provided three lunch tickets – two for the students and one for the advisor. Those who register prior to October 25th, have the option to purchase additional meal tickets. Meal tickets WILL NOT be for purchase the day of the event.

Day of State Discussion Meet

- The State Discussion Meet is held at the Devos Place Convention Center connected to the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids on Tuesday, December 2nd. The event is free for all spectators, though you may need to pay for parking in one of the parking structures.
- State Discussion Meet Schedule (**PLEASE NOTICE NEW SCHEDULE**)
 - 8:15 am Registration
 - 8:45 Mandatory Contestant Briefing (BE ON TIME!)
 - 9:15-10:15 DM Round One
 - In between rounds Group Contestant Photo
 - 10:15-11:15 DM Round Two
 - 11:30 MFB State Annual Luncheon & Finalists Announcement
 - 1:30-2:30 DM Finals (Final Six - one room)
 - 3:00 Winner Announcement in Discussion Meet Finals Room
 - 4:00 (approx.) Winner & Runner Up Recognized at the State Annual Delegate Floor. Must attend to receive prizes.

- At Registration, contestants will receive their name card and room assignments. NOTE: Discussion Meet Registration is NOT at the MFB State Annual Meeting Registration. It's a separate registration located outside Discussion Meet rooms in Devos Place Convention Center – reference location map.
- Arrive ON TIME to the Contestant Briefing. If you are not in the Contestant Briefing, you will be disqualified. No Exceptions. This is a rule for all Youth, Collegiate, and Young Farmer State Discussion Meet contests.

Round One Question: *Products like cell-based food products have demonstrated the food system in rapidly changing. How can future food technologies and related products be beneficially integrated into modern agriculture production without hampering the success of traditional products and the farmers and ranchers who grow them?*

Round Two Question: *The 21st-century agricultural economy is threatened by labor shortages. Without a clear solution for accessing foreign guest workers as a component of immigration reform coming from Congress, what are some creative and legal ways for agriculture to address the labor needs of a modern production system?*

- MFB staff will be photographing and shooting video in the various Discussion Meet rooms. These images and videos maybe used in MFB member publications, on social media, and to promote the contest.
- The top six overall average scores between Round One and Round Two will determine the top six finalists. The top six finalists will be announced during the MFB State Annual Meeting Luncheon.
- Those students not competing in the final round are encouraged to watch the Discussion Meet Finals and step into the State Annual Meeting Delegate Session.

State Final Question: *How can Farm Bureau, at the collegiate, county, state, and/or national level help address mental health issues within the agriculture community?*

- State Winner and Runner Up will be announced at 3 p.m. in the Finals Room. The State Winner and Runner Up must stay to be recognized on the Delegate Floor at the MFB State Annual Delegate Session – approx. at 4 p.m.
- The winner and runner-up earn a cash prize and personalized plaque to be delivered after the first of the year. The winner and runner-up will be required to fill out a W-9 and attend the MFB State Annual Delegate Session Announcement to receive their prizes.

2019 Discussion Meet Topics

Chapter Level Questions:

Question One: Products like cell-based food products have demonstrated the food system is rapidly changing. How can future food technologies and related products be beneficially integrated into modern agriculture production without hampering the success of traditional products and the farmers and ranchers who grow them?

Question Two: The 21st-century agricultural economy is threatened by labor shortages. Without a clear solution for accessing foreign guest workers as a component of immigration reform coming from Congress, what are some creative and legal ways for agriculture to address the labor needs of a modern production system?

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State Topics:

Round One Question: Products like cell-based food products have demonstrated the food system in rapidly changing. How can future food technologies and related products be beneficially integrated into modern agriculture production without hampering the success of traditional products and the farmers and ranchers who grow them?

Round Two Question: The 21st-century agricultural economy is threatened by labor shortages. Without a clear solution for accessing foreign guest workers as a component of immigration reform coming from Congress, what are some creative and legal ways for agriculture to address the labor needs of a modern production system?

State Final Question: How can Farm Bureau, at the collegiate, county, state, and/or national level help address mental health issues within the agriculture community?

TOPIC: _____

Superior = 100% of points available | Excellent = 80% | Good = 60% | Fair = 40% | Poor = 20%

	Participants to the left of the moderator					MODERATOR	Participants to the right of the moderator				
PARTICIPANT'S NAME:											
1. OPENING STATEMENT: (50 points) a. Definition of problem, importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem.											
2. PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION: (200 points) a. Ability and judgment in seeking answers and solutions, planning and organizational understanding and inclusion of Farm Bureau in implementing action programs.											
3. ANALYSIS OR TOPIC OR PROBLEM: (150 points) a. Does contestant attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic? Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts.											
4. COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: (100 points) a. Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreement, minimizing major differences. b. Courtesy to other participants, encourage discussion from other participants.											
5. DELIVERY: (100 points) a. Voice quality, loudness, clear enunciation, communication skills, desirable sentence structure and interesting choice of words.											
6. CLOSING STATEMENT: (100 points) a. Ability to summarize discussion and formulate direction for the future.											

<i>Total score for each contestant is to be tabulated by Judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by Judge.</i> 700 points possible										
<i>TOTAL</i>										
<i>Rank contestants: highest score = 1; second highest = 2, etc.</i>										
<i>RANK</i>										

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE: _____