

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU HIGH SCHOOL DISCUSSION MEET State Level Overview

PURPOSE OF A DISCUSSION MEET

The Discussion Meet, at any level, is designed to replicate a committee meeting where participants explore an agricultural topic and ways to address it. The event is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. This is not a panel symposium where 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 participant at any time.



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 the ability to listen.
4. Help the participant to overcome timidity or stage fright.
5. Assist the individual in learning to give and receive criticism in a gainful manner.
6. Teach the value of compromise.
7. Develop leaders for effective problem-solving through group discussion.

THE STATE QUALIFYING PROCESS

The competition begins at the regional level. Students in grades 9th to 12th compete in randomly assigned groups of six to eight students to discuss a preselected topic.

The top three individuals from each region move on to the State opening rounds and compete for a spot in the High School Discussion Meet Final Round all held during [Michigan Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting](#) on Wednesday, November 29, 2023.

At the state discussion meet, students receive their room assignments. Each student will compete in both Round One and Round Two. The top ranking six students will move on to the Final Round.

PARTS OF A DISCUSSION MEET

A discussion meet round consists of up to eight high school students discussing a preselected topic. The discussion has three parts:

- The opening statement is **30 seconds** in length. The statement should be broad in scope, show relevancy and importance of the topic.
- The body of the discussion will be **20 minutes** in length. During the body of the discussion, competitors discuss why the topic is an issue, share personal stories and data to validate their points, problem solve to create possible solutions, brainstorm potential partners, and share their next steps.

- The closing statement is given at the end of the discussion. Competitors 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.

PRIZES

All prizes are courtesy of DTE Energy and the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture. The top three regional competitors received a \$50 cash prize and a one-day registration for themselves and a guest during the MFB State Annual Meeting to compete in the state discussion meet. The state runner-up will receive a \$150 cash prize and an award. The state winner will receive \$250 and an award.

STATE DISCUSSION MEET AGENDA – Wednesday, November 29th

LOCATION: Devos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, MI

7:45 a.m.	Arrive to allow for time to park and walk to Grand Gallery
8:00 a.m.	Registration, Grand Gallery Ballrooms
8:15 a.m.	Contestant AND Judges Briefing
8:30 a.m.	Discussion Meet Round One
9:45 a.m.	Discussion Meet Round Two
11:15 a.m.	Final Six Announcement
11:30 a.m.	Discussion Meet Final Round
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	MFB State Annual Member Engagement Luncheon & Program – Winners Announced

THE 2023 STATE TOPICS BY ROUND

Below includes the topics assigned to each round as well as links to assist in your research.

- **Round One Question:** Farmers and ag business professionals across the country are diverse in not only the goods they produce, but also in the ways they raise and market them. How can organizations like Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan FFA, and Michigan 4-H further welcome and engage diverse agricultural communities and cultivate dynamic agricultural leaders? (Regional Level Round Two Question)
- **Round Two Question:** Agriculture uses water for everything from growing crops, raising livestock, and moving products to and from farms and ag business operations. Water issues are often hotly debated, are unique to each region and can pose significant challenges to growers. How can the agricultural industry help address water management challenges and seek long term solutions? (Brand New Question)
- **Final Round Question:** Production agriculture requires a lot of capital. Young agriculturalists face challenges gaining access to the capital they need to start or grow their operations. What tools are currently available, and what new programs could be introduced, to help young people access financial resources—and make sound financial decisions—to run their farms and ag business operations? (Regional Level Round One Question)

MAIN CONTACT: Katie Eisenberger, MFB High School & Collegiate Programs Specialist

Email: keisenb@michfb.com Cell: (989)400-2434

STATE SCORECARD

ROUND: One Two Final

ROOM:

TOPIC: Engage Diverse Ag Communities

Water Management

Production Ag/Capital

					COMPETITORS, LISTED LEFT TO RIGHT			
COMPETITOR'S NAME:								
(1) OPENING STATEMENT: (10 points) Defines problem; conveys importance and relevance; sets the stage for an interesting discussion; clear point of view; uses time wisely.								
(2) ANALYSIS OR TOPIC OR PROBLEM: (20 points) Has thoroughly researched topic; builds on the ideas of others to help achieve coherent analysis; asks relevant questions; helps ensure thorough analysis before problem solving; aware of relevant FB policy.								
(3) PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION: (25 points) Leader in guiding the conversation to specific and relevant solutions; has achievable plan of action; clearly defines how FB is part of the action plan.								
(4) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: (15 points) Active listener; comments on specific ideas mentioned by others and ties them back to the bigger Conversation; shows grace, courtesy and respect to others; shows integrity especially when they do not agree.								
(5) DELIVERY: (15 points) Interesting to listen to; animated; appropriate volume and tone; poised; uses gestures and eye contact; confident and clear.								
(6) CLOSING STATEMENT: (15 points) Shows that they have listened to the conversation; develops relevant and realistic plans; memorable; inspires confidence.								
<i>Total score for each competitor is to be tabulated by the judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by the judge.</i> Total of 100 points possible.								
<i>Rank competitors: highest score = 1; second highest = 2, etc.</i>								

JUDGE'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT): _____

HIGH SCHOOL DISCUSSION MEET RUBRIC

(1) OPENING STATEMENT 10 PTS

Competitor...

- Clearly defines the problem.
- Conveys the importance and relevancy of the problem.
- Makes an “open” statement that leaves room for further conversation.
- Sets the stage for an interesting conversation with a very clear point of view.
- Uses their time very wisely and stays in the given time.

Award 7-10 points

Competitor...

- Defines the problem.
- Sets the problem in context.
- Makes a statement that leaves some room for further conversation but could be more open.
- Has a general point of view.
- Stays in the given time.

Award 4-6 points

Competitor...

- Does not address the problem – is off topic.
- Does not address the importance or relevancy of the problem.
- Makes a “closed” statement that does not allow room for further conversation.
- Does not seem to have a point of view.
- Does not finish in the allotted time.

Award 0-3 points

(2) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: 20 PTS

Competitor...

- Identifies and addresses the causes of the problem and remains on topic.
- Has thoroughly researched the topic.
- Confidently builds on the ideas of others to contribute to a coherent analysis.
- Asks relevant questions to vet the ideas of others.
- Shares relevant personal examples that add to the conversation.
- Helps ensure thorough analysis before moving to problem solving.
- Is aware of current and relevant FB policy.

Award 13-20 points

Competitor...

- Identifies the causes of the problem, does not directly address them, but remains on topic.
- Has done research.
- Addresses the ideas of others but does not build upon them – or only drops
- in information they learned without connecting it to previous ideas and moving the conversation forward.
- Asks some questions to help vet the ideas of others.
- Shares relevant personal examples – maybe slightly off topic.
- Demonstrates knowledge of this problem but not why it exists.
- Is aware of current FB policy.

Award 6-12 points

Competitor...

- Does not address the problem or does not remain on topic/wanders/distracts.
- Hasn't done much research or lacks quality facts.
- Doesn't build on other's ideas, only pushes their own.
- Doesn't ask questions to clarify other's ideas.
- Doesn't share relevant personal examples.
- Misinterprets the issue or does not display competency and therefore does not help with problem solving.
- Is unaware of FB policy.

Award 0-5 points

(3) PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION 25 PTS

Competitor...

- Is a leader in guiding the group and the conversation to specific and relevant solutions.
- Generates ideas that contribute to an achievable and specific plan of action to resolve the issue.
- Clearly defines how Farm Bureau is part of the action plan.

Award 17-25 points

Competitor...

- Tries to help lead the conversation to address a solution but misses opportunities to collaborate with the group.
- Has a plan but is missing specificity.
- Farm Bureau is mentioned but is not a crucial piece of the solution.

Award 7-16 points

Competitor...

- Instead of helping to guide the conversation to a solution, just data drops.
- Offers no plan for a solution or a generic plan like “tell our story” or “educate consumers.”
- Does not identify how Farm Bureau is involved.

Award 0-6 points

(4) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: 15 PTS**Competitor...**

- Is an active listener and comments on references or specific ideas mentioned by others tying them back to the bigger conversation?
- Clearly shows grace, courtesy and respect to other participants.
- Shows integrity especially when they do not agree with others.

Award 10-15 points**Competitor...**

- Competitor listens to others but does not comment specifically on their ideas or tie ideas back to the bigger conversation.
- Is respectful of others.
- Is not rude or defensive when they disagree with others.

Award 5-9 points**Competitor...**

- Does not listen to others – just waits for their turn to talk.
- Cuts others off or simply repeats what others have already said.
- Is rude, defensive or combative when they do not agree with others.

Award 0-4 points**(5) DELIVERY: 15 PTS****Competitor...**

- Is interesting to listen to, animated and lively, speaks at an appropriate volume and with a professional and courteous tone.
- Is poised and uses gestures and eye contact that merit respect and professionalism.
- Confidently conveys thoughts and viewpoints clearly.

Award 10-15 points**Competitor...**

- Speaks at an appropriate volume and pace with appropriate tone.
- Uses effective posture, gestures and eye contact.
- Conveys thoughts and viewpoints but could seem overly rehearsed.

Award 5-9 points**Competitor...**

- Is boring/ mumbling/ monotoned.
- Slouches and does not use appropriate gestures.
- Do not have eye contact.
- Ideas are difficult to understand, or they are not confident in speaking.

Award 0-4 points**(6) CLOSING STATEMENT: 15 PTS****Competitor...**

- Shows that they have actively listened to the conversation in their summary.
- Uses take away points from the discussion to develop relevant, realistic and specific action items and plans for the future.
- Closing statement is memorable and inspires confidence in their ability to work toward a solution.

Award 10-15 points**Competitor...**

- Summarizes the conversation that happened.
- Uses take-away points from the discussion to help develop a plan.
- Closing statement is memorable.

Award 5-9 points**Competitor...**

- Does not accurately summarize the conversation.
- Uses memorized speech that doesn't reflect the content of the conversation.
- Closing statement is forgettable.

Award 0-4 points