

**American Farm Bureau Federation  
Young Farmers & Ranchers Collegiate Discussion Meet**

**Rules for 2015 AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference Competition**

**Background**

The Collegiate Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee. Farm Bureau's strength depends on its members' ability to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The competition is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each committee member. Applicants 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. **A successful applicant is a productive thinker rather than an emotional persuader. He/she will assist the group in creating ways to implement the solutions discussed and highlight Farm Bureau's involvement in those actions/steps.** It is recommended that state Farm Bureaus provide, as part of the state recognition award, an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet competition that will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, Feb. 13-16, 2015. The AFBF YF&R Committee and the AFBF Organization Department will coordinate the program at the national level.

Information about the Collegiate Discussion Meet applicant is requested on the entry form. ALL INFORMATION IS HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND IS DESTROYED AFTER JUDGING IS COMPLETED.

**Eligibility**

- Applicant shall be a member of a recognized collegiate Farm Bureau chapter or club as established by a state Farm Bureau and be between the ages of 18 and 35. The individual shall have reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached his/her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday by the last day of February 2015.
- Applicant must be an undergraduate college student in a state with a recognized YF&R program. Undergraduate status is determined at the time the applicant qualifies for the national competition, not necessarily the national event itself.
- Applicant shall not be enrolled in a graduate-level program at the time of his/her state Collegiate Discussion Meet competition.
- Applicant must display a sincere interest in the agricultural industry.
- Applicant may only compete in one national YF&R Competition per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse/spousal-equivalents are not eligible.
- Past state YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet winners and/or previous AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Discussion Meet winners and/or previous AFBF Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of county, state and/or American Farm Bureaus and their affiliates are not eligible to compete.
- 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.
- Each state may submit two entries to be considered for national recognition and must use the AFBF entry form and application. AFBF reserves the right to adjust the number of competitors based on the total number of entries.

**Entry Form & Application Guidelines**

- The application must be properly signed with no additional pages, including letters of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions.
- States have permission to reproduce the attached entry form.

**Note: Disregarding any of the guidelines listed above will result in disqualification.**

**Competition**

- The participants will discuss pre-selected topics with four, fundamental bases for the general discussion: cooperation, constructive criticism, problem solving and communication.
- The competition will consist of four rounds: two Round Robins, Sweet 16 and Final Four.
  - All competitors will compete in the first two rounds. The top 16 competitors based on judges' scores will move on to the Sweet 16 round.
  - The top competitor in each of the third round rooms will move on to the Final Four round in order to determine the winner.
- Each round will begin with a 30-second opening statement and end with a one-minute closing statement by each participant.
- Participants will have 20 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time.

**Note: More detailed information regarding the competition can be found in the AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet Manual.**

**State Advertisement of National Awards**

State Farm Bureaus are required to advertise the national prizes **one** time during the year through a print advertisement or an article in the state's publication(s). These promotions will qualify the state entries to receive the national prizes, should they be the winner or finalist of one of the national competitions. The advertisement and/or article submitted **must be specific** to promoting YF&R Competitions and must recognize the sponsors.

**PowerPoint Competitor Template**

PowerPoint competitor templates that highlight the state entry must be completed using the template provided by AFBF. This template is available from the state YF&R coordinator. It should include the applicant's bio, written in third person, and 2-3 pictures of the applicant and their agricultural operation or involvement. *All pictures and presentations become the property of AFBF.*

**Deadline**

States are encouraged to select their entries in time for recognition at their state annual meeting. Each state's entry forms and applications, PowerPoint slides and proof of state advertisement of national awards must be included with the state's single cover sheet and be emailed to **yfr@fb.org** with a time stamp on or before **11:59 p.m. EST Dec. 9, 2014**, to be considered for national recognition and awards.

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**2015 Entry Form and Application**

The state's entry form and application, PowerPoint slides and proof of state advertisement of national awards must be included with the state's single cover sheet and be emailed to **yfr@fb.org** with a time stamp on or before **11:59 p.m. EST Dec. 9, 2014**.

Please electronically complete one form for each applicant. No handwritten applications will be accepted.

Applicant\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College: \_\_\_\_\_

Home State: \_\_\_\_\_

**College Residence:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Address:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Send scholarship check to: (check one)       Permanent Address       College Residence

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby certify the information on this entry form to be accurate and true statements. **AFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A STATE FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** AFBF reserves the right to use my photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. The photos and/or video footage of the undersigned contestant may also be available to Farm Bureau sponsors. By participating in the event, I warrant that I fully and unconditionally agree to and accept the YF&R official contest rules and the decisions of the AFBF YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the above named applicant is the official state entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for AFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Collegiate Discussion Meet for 2015.

State President/Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_