

NC Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet

Name _____

EMAIL _____

Mobile Phone _____

County _____

NCFB Membership # _____

Provide separate 5-7 line biography and 5 digital photos of you and your agricultural operation or involvement. Photos should be taken with camera set on HIGH resolution – .jpg format is preferred. Please **email** completed application, bio and pictures **BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014** to:

Lori Lawrence
lori.lawrence@ncfb.org
NC Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 27766
Raleigh, NC 27611

Applications received without separate bio and pictures will be returned to the applicant if time allows. Email meetings@ncfb.org to receive an **electronic copy** of application.

If you have questions, contact your field representative or DeShon Cromartie (deshon.cromartie@ncfb.org or (919) 306-6312).

DISREGARD mailing instructions and deadlines on the application. Follow the instructions ABOVE.

WINNER receives:

- Trip to AFBF Convention for Winner and Spouse**
- RTV**
- Plaque**

Three RUNNER UPs receive:

- \$500 from NCFB**

Discussion Meet

Applicant Qualifications

- Competitors shall be Farm Bureau members in good standing with their county Farm Bureau between the ages of 18 and 35. They shall not have reached their 36th birthday by January 31st of the year they would compete at the AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Competitors must be actively involved in agriculture to be eligible.
- The following are **ineligible** to compete:
 - Past and present AFBF YF&R committee members.
 - Individuals who have competed in a previous AFBF Discussion Meet.
 - Professional speakers. 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.
 - County, State and American Farm Bureau employees are not eligible; this also includes affiliated companies.
- YF&R Discussion Meet Round Robins and Finals will be held on Sunday during NC Farm Bureau's Annual Convention in December at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel.
- YF&R Discussion Meet application, resources, resource study guide and training call information are available online at:

<http://www.ncfb.org/Programs/YoungFarmersRanchers/Contentest.aspx>



2014 YF&R Competitive Event Application FAQs

Before you begin, please ensure you have the most updated version of Adobe Reader before beginning the application. You can visit the [Adobe Reader website](#) to download the free program.

1. **Why are my answers being cut off?**

We have limited the space available to describe your achievements and ideas as a necessary way to ensure final application page length. If a block shows a plus sign, nothing after the plus sign will be shown, and the plus sign will be printed on your application. You will need to edit your response to make it more concise.

A screenshot of a text input field in a form. The text inside is a block of Lorem Ipsum placeholder text. At the end of the text, there is a small plus sign (+) in a square box, indicating that the text has been truncated. A red arrow points from the plus sign to the right, showing the text that is not visible in the current view.

II AGRICULTURAL STATUS (Select all that apply)

2. **My education information doesn't fit in provided space; what should I do?**

Judges do not see this form, as it has personal information listed. We ask for this information for our own personal records. Use your best judgment in communicating programs like EMT, BS, MS, etc.

3. **If I'm not allowed to use personal identifiers, what is the best way to distinguish between myself and my spouse/spousal-equivalent throughout the application?**

On the entry form you are asked to provide information for Applicant 1 (A1) and Applicant 2 (A2). You can continue this system throughout the application, using A1 and A2 when referring to each of you.

4. **My information doesn't fit in the leadership role/experience lines; what should I do?**

Your leadership roles and experiences may have long titles and/or descriptions. Feel free to use more than one line to list an experience. Also remember to not include state or county references past the first page.

5. **For the Achievement Award application page 6, why won't the calculated ratios round to nice numbers?**

Unfortunately, creating a spreadsheet in Adobe Reader is more complex than in Excel, so some of the formatting options don't transfer when using simple Java Script. Because of this, the Debt/Asset Ratio and the Operating Expense Ratio will not round to a specific number of decimal places.

6. **As an Excellence in Agriculture applicant, what is the best way to submit my presentation?**

You will not need to submit your presentation until the AFBF Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Please bring your presentation on a flash drive, as conference center computers are not always equipped with CD drives or Internet access. If you are selected as one of the top 10 applicants, we will collect the flash drive in order to have your presentation queued up and ready for when you present.

If you have further questions, contact your state coordinator.

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

Rules for 2015 AFBF Annual Convention Competition

Background

The 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' abilities 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. 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. **A successful participant 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 Annual Convention held in 2015 in San Diego California, Jan. 9-12. Appropriate recognition will be given to all national competitors in attendance at the AFBF Annual Convention. The AFBF YF&R Committee and the AFBF Organization Department will coordinate the program at the national level.

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

Eligibility

- Participant shall be a Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with his/her county Farm Bureau. The individual shall have reached his/her 18th birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31, 2015.
- Participant must be actively engaged in agriculture.
- Participant 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 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 one entry to be considered for national recognition and must use the AFBF entry form and application.

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 using four 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.
- During the Round Robins and Sweet 16, participants will have 25 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time.
- During the Final Four round, participants will have 30 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time.

Note: More detailed information regarding the competition can be found in the AFBF 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 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**, to be considered for national recognition and awards.

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

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 this form. No handwritten applications will be accepted.

Applicant*: _____
** Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Education/Degree: _____

Spouse/Spousal-Equivalent's Name: _____

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.*

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 Discussion Meet for 2015.

State President/Administrator: _____ Date: _____

State: _____