

2025 TFB Discussion Meet Application

The Discussion Meet is the presentation of well-thought-out opinions and ideas for the purpose of problem-solving. Five agricultural-related topics are selected prior to the contest. Contestants are provided information about the topics once their entry form is submitted. The contest process is outlined below.

- The contest is conducted in panels of four, five or six contestants
- One of five topics is chosen for each panel and a 25-minute roundtable discussion ensues
- The discussion is not a debate or a prepared speech, but rather an exchange of ideas and opinions in a moderated format
- See the complete Discussion Meet Manual for all processes and rules

<http://texasfarmbureau.org/yfr>

By clicking here, I Accept and Acknowledge, that I have read the Rules and Eligibility page and the Online Application Submission Instruction page for the 2025 Discussion Meet Contest. I further acknowledge that I have read, understand, and accept each requirement and eligibility in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

The Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Advisory 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.

Young farmers and ranchers who have a passion for agriculture and a determination to help solve issues facing agriculture are encouraged to apply for the Discussion Meet. Contestants are provided information on five issues that impact agriculture in order to prepare for the contest.

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 Texas 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 competition and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 12, 2026.
- 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 are not eligible to compete.
- Collegiate Discussion Meet participants may not compete in the YF&R Discussion Meet within the same calendar year.
- Previous YF&R Discussion Meet participants are not eligible to compete in the Collegiate Discussion Meet.
- Previous AFBF Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete. Past state YF&R Discussion Meet winners are eligible if they have not previously competed at the national level.
- Current employees or agents of county, state and/or the American Farm Bureau organizations and their affiliates are not eligible to compete. An affiliate is defined as an entity owned or controlled in whole or in part by another entity through, for example, ownership (including partial ownership) or positions on the board of directors.
- 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

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speaking engagements) within 24 months prior to this annual competition. This excludes reimbursement for travel or expenses attendant to the appearance.

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ENTRY FORM & APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Please fill out the entry form below in its entirety

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 two rounds: The top four competitors based on judges' scores 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 Opening Rounds, 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 TFB Discussion Meet Manual.

AWARDS & PRIZES:

PRIZES

Winner:

- ATV
- Winner plaque
- Expense paid trip to AFBF Annual Convention

Three State Finalists:

- \$1,500 cash prize
- Finalist plaque

*All contestants can apply for up to \$200 in expense reimbursement.

DEADLINE

The online entry form must be submitted via the online portal by selecting the green 'submit and finish' button on the online form ON OR BEFORE **11:59 p.m. CST November 1, 2025.**

No emailed or mailed entry forms or applications will be accepted.

Click here to view contest background, eligibility, guidelines, and online application instructions.

<http://bit.ly/TFB-YFR>

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Full Name of Contestant (as it appears on your Driver's License)

FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	SUFFIX
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Mailing Address:

ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
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Physical Address: (if different than Mailing Address)

ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
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Cell Phone / Email / DOB / Gender:

CELL PHONE	EMAIL	DATE OF BIRTH	GENDER
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Education / Degree:

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Are you an alumnus of any of the following youth organizations? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ 4-H
- ☐ AFA
- ☐ FFA
- ☐ MANRRS

Do you have any ADA special requirements we should be aware of?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

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Please give a 5 – 7 line biographical sketch for media use, should you be chosen as the state winner or a finalist.

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- ☐ I understand that if I am selected as a finalist in the 2025 Discussion Meet Contest, I will be required to submit a W-9 and I will receive a 1099 for the value of any awards.
- ☐ I hereby certify the information on this entry form to be accurate and true statements. TEXAS FARM BUREAU DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY. Texas Farm Bureau reserves the right to use my (our) photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. The photos and/or video footage of the undersigned contestant(s) 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 Texas Farm Bureau YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.
- ☐ By selecting the 'Submit and Finish' button below I am entering the 2025 Texas Farm Bureau YF&R Discussion Meet Contest. The County Farm Bureau President and office in which my Farm Bureau membership is held will receive notification of this application.

How did you hear about this contest?

- ☐ COUNTY FARM BUREAU
- ☐ TEXAS FARM BUREAU STAFF
- ☐ SOCIAL MEDIA POST
- ☐ PRINT PRODUCTION / ADVERTISEMENT
- ☐ YF&R MEETING
- ☐ YF&R ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER
- ☐ PREVIOUSLY APPLIED