

TEXAS FARM BUREAU

2025

DISCUSSION

MEET

COMPETITORS' MANUAL

RULES & PROCEDURES



2025 Discussion Meet Questions

1. Urban sprawl presents significant challenges for farmers and ranchers, impacting access to land and resources. We see that 1.9 million acres of agricultural land are lost to development each year. How can Farm Bureau help promote responsible growth in communities while mitigating the loss of farms, ranches, and the agrarian way of life?
2. Technology has made the world more interconnected than ever, creating new avenues for communication with policymakers. How can digital engagement be leveraged to effectively connect Farm Bureau members with their local, state, and national elected and appointed officials?
3. There are numerous resources available to support seamless farm and ranch succession planning. How can Farm Bureau help increase understanding, access and utilization of tools and resources that help facilitate the smooth transition of land and capital from one generation to the next?
4. Farmers and ranchers are at the forefront of environmental stewardship. From soil health to local ecosystems, producers are concerned about how to be both environmentally and financially sustainable. How can farmers and ranchers effectively advance environmental stewardship while balancing the needs of their farms?
5. Farm Bureau offers a diverse range of member benefits at the state and national levels. What strategies can be implemented to ensure members are fully informed about the savings on products and services available to them? Additionally, how can young farmers and ranchers leverage these industry relationships to strengthen local partnerships and increase utilization of these discounts to keep their operations running smoothly?

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1. DISCUSSION MEET OVERVIEW

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 before the contest.

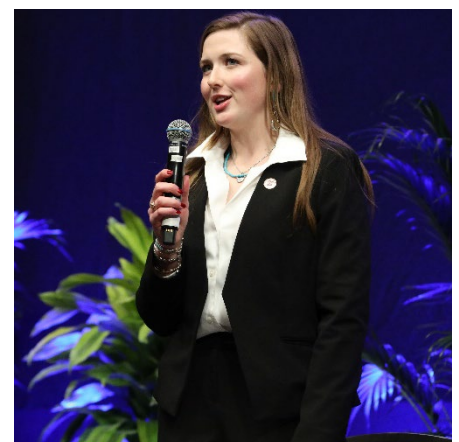
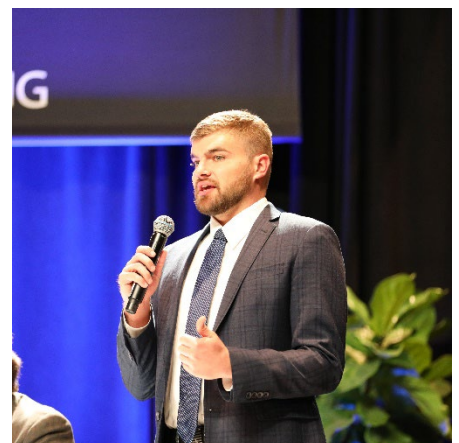
Contestants are provided information about the topics once their entry form is submitted. The contest process is outlined below.

- 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

COMPETITION OBJECTIVES

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

- Develop leaders for effective problem solving through group discussion.



2. COMPETITION FORMAT

1. All competition facilitators and competitors will meet in the pre-assigned competition room 15 minutes before the start of the competition to receive last-minute comments from the room chair. At this time, competitors will also draw for order for the placement of their name tent/chair. Competitors not present at the time of the drawing will select from the remaining positions. The competition facilitators are TFB-designated room chairs and moderators.
2. Competitors may not take prepared notes in any form to the competition table. After all competitors have been introduced, notes may be written on the paper provided. If a note is brought to the table and is noticed by the competition facilitator, there will be a disqualification called at the end of the round by the Discussion Meet chair, the TFB YF&R Committee chair, and/or the TFB coordinator.
3. The room chair will call the meeting to order, announce the topic to be discussed, and introduce the timekeeper and moderator. Any competitor not present at this time will be disqualified.
4. The moderator will introduce the competitors and re-announce the topic to be discussed. He/she will give each of the competitors, in voluntary order, the opportunity to make a 30-second opening statement directed to the audience.
5. The timekeeper will flash a red timecard indicating when 30 seconds have elapsed and announce "time". Judges may subtract points at their discretion for competitors who abuse the time limit.
6. The moderator will then indicate the opportunity for open discussion, which will continue for a total of 25 minutes during the opening rounds and Elite Eight round, and 30 minutes during the Final Four round. The discussion should be directed to the fellow competitors.
7. The timekeeper will indicate to the moderator when five minutes of open discussion time remain. If the discussion is lagging, the moderator may close the discussion at this time.
8. The timekeeper will indicate to the moderator when 25 minutes in the opening rounds and Elite Eight rounds, and 30 minutes in the Final Four round have elapsed with a red timecard. The moderator will call for open discussion to stop for one minute of quiet time, allowing the competitors to compose a closing statement.
9. The moderator will give each of the competitors, in voluntary order, the opportunity to make a one-minute closing statement directed to the audience. The timekeeper will flash a red timecard and announce "time" when the one minute has elapsed.
10. The moderator will recognize the judges and request them to leave the room with the room chair to finalize the tabulation of their score sheets. Judges are not to confer with each other until the room chair has collected their tabulated score sheets.
11. The next round topic to be discussed will be announced (except for the Final Four question). The Final Four question will be announced at the official Final Four Announcement.
12. The moderator will thank the panel and ask the audience to recognize their efforts. He/she will then ask the competitors to share their agricultural background with the audience.

3 . E L I G I B I L I T Y

- The Texas Farm Bureau Discussion Meet is for Texas Farm Bureau members who are interested in and/or engaged in production agriculture.
- 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 on or before January 12 of the year in which they will compete at the national AFBF Annual Meeting.
- Individuals who have competed in a previous AFBF Discussion Meet are ineligible.
- Past and present AFBF YF&R committee members are ineligible.
- 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 contest.
- Competitors must be actively involved in agriculture to be eligible.
- Professional speakers are ineligible 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.
- County and Texas Farm Bureau employees are not eligible; this also includes affiliated companies.

4 . COMPETITION STRUCTURE

ORIENTATIONS

Competitor Orientation

- Orientation will be held before the opening round of competition.
- All participants are required to attend; roll call will be taken.
- The opening round topic will be announced.
- The first-round topic will be announced now, and again in the competition room.
- Each subsequent round topic will be announced at the close of the prior round, except for the final question. The Final Four question will be announced at the official Final Four Announcement.
- Opening round room assignments and locations will be distributed.



Judge Orientation

- Orientation will be held before the opening round of competition.
- All judges are required to attend; roll call will be taken.
- Judges' duties will be reviewed (see Judge Duties), and any announcements will be made.
- Competition timing sequences will be reviewed.
- There will be time for judges to ask questions.
- Opening round room assignments and locations will be distributed.

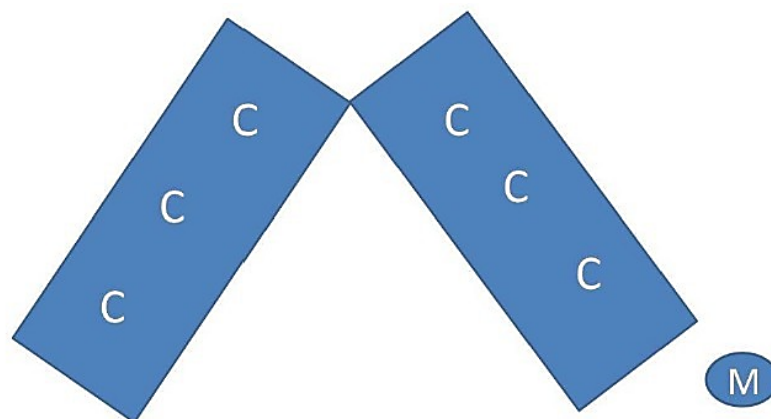
Timekeeper Orientation

- Orientation will be held before the opening round of competition.
- All timekeepers are required to attend; roll call will be taken.
- Opening round room assignments and locations will be distributed.
- Timekeeper duties will be reviewed (see Timekeeper Duties), and any announcements will be made.

5. COMPETITION

- All participants will compete in the first two rounds of the competition. Each of the first two rounds will include rooms with four to six competitors. The top 8 competitors based on judges' rankings and scores from the first two rounds will be put into an Elite Eight round.
- The Elite Eight round will have two rooms with four competitors each, with the top four competitors based on judges' rankings and scores from both rounds, moving on to the final round. The four finalists will compete in the Final Four round to determine the winner.
- The physical arrangements of the Discussion Meet rooms should provide for two tables at the front of the room facing each other and the audience. Half the participants should be seated at each table with the moderator on the side. Name cards identifying competitors should be easily visible. Cards should show only the competitor's name, not his or her county. Placement of name cards will be determined by a drawing for order 15 minutes before the start of the round. Competitors not present at the time of the drawing will select from the remaining positions.

Room Layout



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      x J x x x x x x x T   x x x x x x x x x
    x x x x x x x x x x   x x x x x x J x x x
      x x x x x x J x x   x x x x x x x x x
  
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M = Moderator

C = Competitor

J = Judge

T = Timer

X = Audience

6 . C O M P E T I T I O N F L O W

Generally speaking, 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 the problem or need.
4. Elaborate on all possible alternative solutions.
5. Evaluate and compare alternatives.
6. Test and project what appears to be the best solution(s).
7. Create ways to implement the solution(s) discussed and highlight Farm Bureau's involvement in those actions/steps.



7 . R O L E S & R E S P O N S I B I L I T I E S COMPETITION FACILITATORS

Discussion Meet Chair Duties

- a) Familiarize yourself with the TFB YF&R Discussion Meet Manual.
- b) Before orientations, determine the sequence of topics to be used for the competition.
- c) Conduct the Discussion Meet Competitor Orientation session.
 - 1. Make introductions.
 - 2. Give a brief explanation of the Discussion Meet competition procedures.
 - 3. Distribute room assignments and locations.
 - 4. Allow time for questions.
 - 5. Announce the first-round topic during orientation.
- d) Settle all disputes during the competition.

Room Chair Duties

- a) Familiarize yourself with the TFB YF&R Discussion Meet Manual.
- b) Ensure all judges are present and report any changes to the moderator.
- c) Meet in the assigned room with

competitors, judges, moderator, and timekeeper to answer any questions they may have.

- d) Facilitate the drawing for order and placement of name tents, fifteen minutes before the start of the competition.
- e) Call the competition to order at the appointed time. Introduce the moderator and announce the topic to be discussed.
- f) Following the discussion, introduce and thank the judges.
- g) Escort the judges to the judges' tabulating room at the end of the competition and allow them to finish tabulating and ranking the participants. Assist with the final ranking if necessary.
- h) Ensure each competitor has been ranked in all sections of the rating sheet.
- i) Supervise tiebreakers. (See Scoring)

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

COMPETITION FACILITATORS

Moderator Duties

- a) Familiarize yourself with the TFB YF&R Discussion Meet Manual.
- b) Become acquainted with the competitors.
- c) Open the competition with the following to ensure that all understand the format:
 1. Welcome the audience.
 2. Announce the topic to be discussed.
 3. Ask the competitors to make a 30-second opening statement, in voluntary order.
 4. After the last opening statement, say, "You have heard the opening statements. You may proceed with the discussion."
 5. End the discussion at the timekeeper's signal.
 6. Call for one minute of quiet time for the competitors to prepare their closing statements.
 7. Ask the competitors to make a one-minute closing statement, in a voluntary order.
 8. Thank the competitors.
 9. Dismiss the room chair and judges for tabulation.
 10. Announce the topic for the next round (with the exception of the Final Four question).
 11. Allow the competitors to introduce themselves and share their agricultural background.
 12. Announce the time and location(s) for the next round.

Note: The moderator should not comment on the topic or encourage discussion. This is the responsibility of the competitors. However, if the discussion seems to stall, the moderator should use his/her best judgment to end the discussion when the timekeeper indicates five minutes remain in open discussion.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES COMPETITION FACILITATORS

Timekeeper's Duties

- a) Familiarize yourself with the TFB YF&R Discussion Meet Manual.
- b) Go to your assigned competition room 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time.
- c) Meet with the room chair, moderator, and competitors for last-minute questions.
- d) Make sure to be seated in the front row near the center.
- e) Indicate the following timing points to the moderator and competitors.

Competitors: Two Opening Rounds and Elite Eight

- The end of each 30-second opening statement (Time Elapsed – Red Card) and announce “time”
- Warning at 20 minutes of open discussion, holding the card up until all competitors have noted the warning (Five Minutes Remaining – Yellow Card)
- The end of 25 minutes of open discussion (Time Elapsed – Red Card)
- The end of one minute of quiet time

(Time Elapsed – Red Card)

- The end of each competitor's one-minute closing statement (Time Elapsed – Red Card) and announce “time”

Final Four

- The end of each 30-second opening statement (Time Elapsed – Red Card) and announce “time”
- Warning at 25 minutes of open discussion, holding the card up until all competitors have noted the warning (Five Minutes Remaining – Yellow Card)
- The end of 30 minutes of open discussion (Time Elapsed – Red Card)
- The end of one minute of quiet time (Time Elapsed – Red Card)
- The end of each competitor's one-minute closing statement (Time Elapsed – Red Card) and announce “time”
- The end of each competitor's one-minute closing statement. (Time elapsed – red card)

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

COMPETITION FACILITATORS

Judges' Duties

- a) Familiarize yourself with the TFB YF&R Discussion Meet Manual.
- b) Review the discussion topics.
- c) Review the Judges Sheet.
- d) Attend the Judge Orientation session.
- e) Go to your assigned room 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time.
- f) Final Four judges are not permitted to attend any preceding rounds.
- g) Meet with the room chair and moderator to receive a list of competitors in your room.
- h) Remain seated until your room chair calls for you to leave the room to do the final tabulating of your score sheet.
- i) Select winners. (See Scoring)
- j) Judges should:
 - List competitors on your Judges Sheet from left to right for ease in identification.
 - Score competitors using the Judges Sheet.
 - Total the scores.
 - Determine and record competitor ranking and ensure there are no ties in raw score or rank.
 - Sign your Judges Sheet.
 - Provide feedback to each competitor.
- k) Judges should not:
 - Sit near a fellow judge.
 - Judge by applause.
 - Confer with each other until all scores are tabulated.

8 . S C O R I N G

The room chair will supervise the final tabulation by the judges. Judges will use the point system indicated on the Judges Sheet to assist in selecting the winners. Each judge will be instructed to total his/her Judges Sheet and rank the competitors.

Each judge is to break ties that occur on his/her own score sheet. The room chair will assist the judges in determining the final ranking of each round and the final competition.

- The winner will be determined by judges' ranking, and ties will be resolved before the judges are dismissed.
 - Ties will be broken at the end of each round by an automatic procedure using Problem Solving and Implementation as the first tiebreaker, followed by Analysis of Topic and Cooperative Attitude.
 - In the event of an unresolvable tie between all three categories, total points from the judge's sheets will be used to resolve the tie. The room chair will assist with this process.
- When possible, the above procedure should be conducted in a private room, with only the judges, the room chair, and the Discussion Meet chair present.

Opening Rounds

The contestants will compete in round one as they have in the past. Before the competition, competitors will be randomly placed in rooms based on a drawing of competitors' names. After round one, competitors' scores will be tallied, and they will be given new room assignments and will be randomly placed in rooms based on a drawing of competitors' names. Contestants will compete in the second round, and their scores will be tallied again.

Elite Eight (if needed)

The top 8 competitors will compete in the Elite Eight round and will be placed into room assignments in the same manner as rounds one and two. The top 4 contestants based on judges scores and rankings will advance to the Final Four where the final topic will be discussed.

9 . B E S T P R A C T I C E S

General Resources and Websites:

Farm Bureau:

- [American Farm Bureau Federation](#)
 - [Issue Backgrounders](#)
 - [Farm Bureau Advocacy Action Center](#)
- [American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture](#)

Government:

- [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)
 - [National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency - Agriculture](#)
- [State Departments of Agriculture](#)
- [Selected Federal Agencies with a Role in Food Safety](#)
- [GovTrack.us](#)

Media:

- [Farm Journal Media](#)

Other:

- [American Farmland Trust](#)
- [American Lands Council](#)
- [Animal Agriculture Alliance](#)
- [Beginning Farmers](#)
- [National Agriculture in the Classroom](#)
- [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#)
- [U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance \(USFRA\)](#)

BEST PRACTICES

- **TRAINING CALLS**. All competitors are encouraged to join the training calls hosted by the AFBF YF&R committee in the fall. Specific dates and times will be announced in late summer. There will be a total of six calls, and each will last one hour. The first call will cover the Discussion Meet format and tips for success, and the other five calls will focus on each question. Oftentimes, the calls include industry experts, who share their expertise and provide additional resources.
- **UTILIZE GOVERNMENT RESEARCH**. Search government agency websites and databases for strong statistics and data to use in your discussions. This information can be reliable and is well-researched.
- **UTILIZE CREDIBLE, NON-GOVERNMENT RESEARCH**. Search for a resource that is free from bias, backed up with evidence, and written by a trustworthy author or organization. Look for primary sources that include first-hand evidence, giving you direct access to your research topic.
- **LEARN FROM THE BEST**. Reach out to former Discussion Meet and Collegiate Discussion Meet participants. Even though the discussion questions change each year, former competitors can provide valuable insight and tips on the nature of the contest. Also, reach out to YF&R staff and committee members who have familiarity with the competition to get clarification.
- **PROS AND CONS**. Review each question and create discussion points from both sides of the issue. This will not only give you a greater understanding of how an issue developed, but it will also prepare you to discuss potential obstacles when working to find a solution.
- **DIVERSIFY WRITTEN SOURCES**. Besides the internet, gather resources and information from the library, newspapers, magazines, Farm Bureau policies, and other agriculture publications.
- **REAL TALK**. Engage in conversations with your local county Farm Bureau members, state and national representatives, lobbyists, and agriculture industry employees to gather information and examples. Seek conversations with those who are not familiar with the issue to gain their perspective. Explaining the topic helps provide practice articulating what you know. As you speak, address all angles to gather additional points and as many ideas as possible.
- **FARM BUREAU HISTORY**. Take time to review county, Texas, and American Farm Bureau history on the topic. What are our standing policies regarding the questions?
- **EXPERT OPINION**. If you don't have a personal relationship with the content of the question, find a credible source that does and get their opinion. Be prepared to cite and properly establish your source as an expert in their field.

10. HELPFUL HINTS

FOR COMPETITORS

- Study as much material as possible relating to the overall topic. Sources: Internet, library, newspapers, magazines, Farm Bureau policies; county, state, and American Farm Bureau publications; and conversations with experts or knowledgeable people.
- Remember, this is a discussion, not a debate.
- Be prepared to ask questions, state facts and opinions, and urge others to be specific.
- Be aware of the audience, but generally address the panel. Speak loudly enough to be heard by the whole audience.
- Participate whenever your contribution will further the discussion. Do not monopolize the discussion.
- The discussion should not be “conversation” or aimless talk, nor should you take the role of a persuasive speaker. Try to cooperatively shed light on the problem and tentatively retain a flexible position.
- This is not a panel symposium wherein 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 person at any time. The moderator plays an inactive role during the discussion.
- Make notes of key points as the discussion proceeds for use in your summary statement.
- Use the one minute of quiet time to organize your closing statement.
- Stand and make your closing statement to the audience. Use accepted speech techniques and stay within the time limit.



Discussion Meet Scoresheet

Room Name: _____ Round # _____

Judge's Name: _____

In the first column, you will find the point values and descriptions. See rubric for additional detail. The total point value for each row is available for each contestant. You are not dividing the total points among contestants. **No ties.**

Columns to the right each represent a different contestant. Please fill in the first and last name of each competitor according to their seat location, from left to right starting with A. Put scores in the larger spaces and rank in the smaller boxes.

	Comp A Name:	Comp B Name:	Comp C Name:	Comp D Name:	Comp E Name:	Comp F Name:
(1) OPENING STATEMENT: 10 pts. Defines problem; conveys importance and relevance; sets the stage for an interesting discussion; clear point of view; uses time wisely						
(2) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: 20 pts. 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	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(3) PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION: 25 pts. Leader in guiding the conversation to specific and relevant solutions; has achievable and specific plan of action; clearly defines how FB is part of the action plan.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(4) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: 15 pts. 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	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(5) DELIVERY: 15 pts. Interesting to listen to; animated; appropriate volume and tone; poised; uses gestures and eye contact; confident and clear						
(6) CLOSING STATEMENT: 15 pts. Shows that they have listened to the conversation; develops relevant and realistic plans; memorable; inspires confidence						
Total score for each contestant is to be tabulated by Judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by Judge. Total of 100 points possible. TOTAL						
Rank contestants: 1 (highest) through (6 lowest). RANK						

Judge's Signature: _____

Room Chair's Signature: _____

Discussion Meet Scoring Rubric

<p>(1)</p> <p>OPENING STATEMENT: 10 pts.</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Award 0-3 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Award 4-6 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 within the given time. <p>Award 7-10 points</p>
<p>(2)</p> <p>ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: 20pts.</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 others' ideas, only pushes their own. • Doesn't ask questions to clarify others' ideas. • Doesn't share relevant personal examples. • Misinterprets the issue or doesn't display competency and therefore does not help with problem solving. • Is unaware of FB policy. <p>Award 0-5 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 - may be slightly off topic. • Demonstrates knowledge of this problem but not why it exists. • Is aware of current FB policy. <p>Award 6-12 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Award 13-20 points</p>

<p>(3) PROBLEM SOLVING AND IMPLEMENTATION 25 pts.</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of helping to guide the conversation to a solution, just data drops. • Offers no plan for a solution or a genetic plan like "tell our story" or "educate consumers." • Does not identify how Farm Bureau is involved. <p>Award 0-6 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Bureaus mentioned but is not a crucial piece of the solution. <p>Award 7-16 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Award 17-25 points</p>
<p>(4) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: 15 pts.</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Award 0-4 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contestant 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. <p>Award 5-9 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Award 10-15 points</p>
<p>(5) DELIVERY: 15 pts.</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is boring/mumbling/monotoned. • Slouches, does not use appropriate gestures or have eye contact. • Ideas are difficult to understand. or they are not confident in speaking. <p>Award 0-4 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Award 5-9 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 emit respect and professionalism. • Confidently conveys thoughts and viewpoints clearly. <p>Award 10-15 points</p>
<p>(6) CLOSING STATEMENT: 15 pts.</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not accurately summarize the conversation. • Uses memorized speech that doesn't reflect the content of the conversation. • Closing statement is forgettable. <p>Award 0-4 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarizes the conversation that happened. • Uses take-away points from the discussion to help develop a plan. • Closing statement is memorable. <p>Award 5-9 points</p>	<p>Contestant...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Award 10-15 points</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **NOVEMBER 1, 2025**

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