

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Collegiate Discussion Meet

Rules for Competition

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Background

The Collegiate Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) 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.** The Minnesota Farm Bureau, as part of the state recognition award, will award the winner an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet competition that will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 15-18, 2019.

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 18th birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by March 31, 2019.
- 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 MFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse/spousal-equivalents are not eligible.
- Past state YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet winners are eligible if they have not previously competed at the national level.
- Past state YF&R Discussion Meet winners and/or previous AFBF Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of county or Minnesota Farm Bureaus or AFBF 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 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 with four fundamental bases for the general discussion: cooperation, constructive criticism, problem solving and communication.
- The competition will consist of rounds at colleges within Minnesota (advancing two competitors onto state competition) two rounds at state competition (November 17, 2018) and a final round at the state competition.
- Each round will begin with a 30-second opening statement and end with a one-minute closing statement by each participant.
- Participants in opening rounds where there are five or fewer competitors, and those advancing to the Sweet 16 will have 15 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time. Participants in opening rounds where there are six competitors, and those advancing to the Final Four 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.

- Deadline for competition:
These may vary from college to college. However, no later than 1 hour before competition.

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**American Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Collegiate Discussion Meet
2018 Minnesota & 2019 AFBF Entry Form and Application**

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Applicant*: _____

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

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Name of College: _____

Home State: _____ Major: _____

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: _____

I hereby certify the information on this entry form to be accurate and true statements. **MFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** MFBF 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: _____

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