

Alabama Farmers Federation Young Farmers Discussion Meet

Rules for 2016 Competitive Event

Background

The Discussion Meet is a competitive event promoted by the Alabama Farmers Federation Young Farmers Committee. The Farmers Federation's strength depends on its members' abilities to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The competitive event 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 and the Farmers Federation's involvement in those actions/steps.** The state winner will represent Alabama in American Farm Bureau's national competition in January 2017 in Orlando, Florida.

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 an Alabama Farmers Federation member between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with his/her county Farmers Federation. The individual shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31, 2017.
- Participant must be actively engaged in agriculture.
- Participant may only compete in one national YF&R Competitive Event per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Past state 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, ALFA, or the Alabama Farmers Federation 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.
- **Applications received without membership numbers and/or all signatures will not be accepted.**

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- **The application must be properly signed** with no additional pages, including letters of recommendation, scrapbooks or other visual additions. **Applications will not be accepted without all signatures.**

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.
- 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 competitive event can be found in the AFBF Discussion Meet Manual at www.alfayoungfarmers.org

Deadline

Deadline for entry is July 1, 2016. No late applications will be accepted. **Applications must be received SIGNED** to the home office by July 1 at 4:00 PM CDT. Scanned copies may be emailed to jhimborg@alfafarmers.org. UPS or FedEx copies can be mailed to 2108 E. South Blvd., Montgomery, AL 36116. USPS copies may be mailed to P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191.

**Alabama Farmers Federation
Young Farmers Discussion Meet**

2016 Entry Form and Application

The applicant's entry form and application must be SIGNED and in the office of the Alabama Farmers Federation on or before 4:00 PM, July 1, 2016.

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 Name: _____

Membership Number: _____ Paid thru date: _____

I hereby certify the information on this entry form to be accurate and true statements. AFF & AFBF reserve the right to use my photos and/or any video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau or the Alabama Farmers Federation. The photos and/or video footage of the undersigned contestant may also be available to sponsors of Farm Bureau events. By participating in the Event, I warrant that I fully and unconditionally agree to and accept the Young Farmers official contest rules and the decisions of the committee, which are final and binding.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby certify that the above named applicant(s) is an official county entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for AFF's Young Farmers Discussion Meet 2016 & for AFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet for 2017.

County President: _____ Date: _____