

**South Carolina Farm Bureau
Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet**

**December 2, 2022
Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach, SC**

Background

The Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation (SCFB) 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.**

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 competes and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by the completion of the national competition (if selected as the state winner). Competitors qualify at the time the state application is submitted and the completion of the national competition is the day awards are given out (Monday, January 09, 2023.)
 - Participant must be actively engaged in agriculture.
 - Participants may only compete in one national YF&R competition per year.
 - Past state YF&R Discussion Meet winners are not eligible to compete.
 - Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
 - Previous AFBF Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete.
 - Current employees or agents of county, state and/or 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. Past employees and interns who were responsible for implementing any of the YF&R competitive events since January 1, 2018, at the state or national level are ineligible.
 - 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.
 - To the best of his/her knowledge, participant must be available to compete in the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet January 6-11, 2023, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This would be required if he/she were deemed the SCFB Discussion Meet Winner.
 - Applicant must be in attendance on-site at the AFBF Annual Convention to compete nationally.
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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: Two Semi-Final rounds, and the Final Four.
 - All competitors will compete in the first two Semi-Final rounds. The top 2 competitors from each of the Semi-Final rounds, based on judges' scores, will move on to the Final Four round 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 Semi-Final Rounds and the Final Four, participants will have 25 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time.

****Please refer to the separate rubric document for all scoring criteria.**

Prize Package:

The winner will receive:

- An EZ-GO Golf Cart provided in part by Garrett's Golf Cars & Specialty Vehicles
- A voucher for up to \$500 in STIHL merchandise provided by STIHL
- A trip to compete (required) at the American Farm Bureau (AFBF) Annual Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico (January 6-11, 2023)*
- A one-night stay at the 2023 SCFB YF&R Conference in Greenville, SC (February 3-5, 2023)*, and
- An opportunity to attend the 2023 AFBF FUSION Conference in Jacksonville, FL, March 3-6, 2023 *

The FINAL FOUR will receive:

- A \$250 VISA gift card

All participants will receive:

- All participants who do not advance to the Final Four will receive a \$75 VISA gift card.

****Disclaimers for Awards & Competitions: Awards programs are subject to change. Out-of-town trips are based upon availability. Winner must agree to represent SCFB in the national competition to receive the prize package.***

2022 YF&R Discussion Meet Questions

1. How can Farm Bureau effectively support and equip young farmers and ranchers to successfully manage economic and infrastructure challenges to ensure healthy and sustainable farms and ranches across the country?
2. Due to current economic demands, many farmers and ranchers spend a lot of time outside the “fence rows” on off-farm jobs. How can Farm Bureau become more accessible and welcoming to members who are working in related fields and juggling responsibilities on and off the farm?
3. Climate has become a major topic among business leaders, policymakers and consumers. As an industry that depends on the weather, what role do we as farmers and ranchers play in shaping climate initiatives to benefit society overall as well as our own farms and ranches?
4. Advancements in autonomous equipment and drone technology offer solutions to challenges farmers and ranchers have faced for years. How can Farm Bureau improve access to, and help farmers and ranchers deploy, these emerging technologies on their operations?
5. Many external influences are causing supply chain disruption for agricultural goods. How can Farm Bureau reduce the impact of external influences through policy development and programming?