

2027 Discussion Meet

A CONTEST FOR YOUNG AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS 18-35

Competition Schedule

During each round of competition, competitors will discuss pre-selected topics with 3 to 5 other participants. Each round consists of a 30-second opening statement, 15-25 minutes of open discussion, and a one-minute closing statement by each participant.

Semi-Finals: December 10, 2026 at the Ohio Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
All competitors participate in 2 rounds of discussion.

Topic Round 1: Rural and large animal veterinary practices and professionals continue to decrease in numbers across the country. How can Farm Bureau help attract and retain rural and large animal veterinarians for member communities?

Topic Round 2: With the continued ripple effect of supply chain challenges related to meat processing, how can Farm Bureau leverage its grassroots network to reduce barriers and create pathways for the development of local USDA certified meat processing?

Final Four: January 22, 2027 at the YAP Winter Leadership Experience
The four competitors with the highest overall score from the semi-finals will advance to the Final Four round of competition.

Topic: Increased public concern over healthy diets and chronic childhood disease has raised questions, as well as criticism, about modern agriculture and the food system. How can Farm Bureau effectively engage in this discussion and advocate for the critical science-based tools and research farmers need to fulfill their commitment to grow healthy, sustainable food, fiber and fuel?

What is it?

The Discussion Meet is a competitive event designed to simulate a committee meeting where participants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of agricultural issues, and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

Eligibility

- Must be an active/voting member of a county Farm Bureau.
- Must be at least 18 years of age upon applying and shall not have reached 36th birthday by January 17, 2028.
- Must not have received a public speaking fee or honorarium in the past 24 months.
- Previous State Winners cannot apply.
- YAP State Committee members may not apply until the year in which they retire from the committee. The YAP state committee Class of 2027 is eligible to apply for the 2027 award.
- Trustees serving the Ohio Farm Bureau Board are eligible to compete.
- Past and present members of the AFBF YF&R Committee may not apply.

Award Winner

- Expense-paid trip to the Ohio Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in December
- Media package
- \$3,000 cash award
- Expense-paid trip to represent Ohio at the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, OK, Jan. 14-18, 2028

Finalists

- Expense-paid trip to the Winter Leadership Experience Jan. 22-23, 2027
- Embroidered Ohio Farm Bureau Branded Apparel
- \$100 cash award

Semi-Finalists

- \$50 cash award

Apply

Register to compete by no later than October 1, 2026.

ofbf.org/DM

Questions? Contact yap@ofbf.org



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