

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet

Rules for 2024 LFBF Annual Convention Competition

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Background

The Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation (LFBF) 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. **Successful participants are productive thinkers rather than emotional persuaders. They will assist the group in creating ways to implement the solutions discussed and highlight Farm Bureau's involvement in those actions/steps.** It is recommended that parish Farm Bureaus provide an expenses-paid trip to the LFBF Annual Convention held in 2024 in New Orleans, LA, June 27-30. Appropriate recognition will be given to all state competitors in attendance at the LFBF Annual Convention. The LFBF YF&R Committee and the LFBF Field Services department will coordinate the program at the state level.

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 a Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35 in good standing with their parish Farm Bureau. The individual shall have reached their 18th birthday at the time they qualify for the state competition and shall not have reached their 36th birthday by the completion of the competition. Competitors qualify at the time the state application is submitted and the completion of the national competition which is the day awards are given out (Monday, January 27, 2025).
- Participant must be actively engaged in agriculture.
- Participant may only compete in one state YF&R competition per year.
- Past and present members of the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and/or their spouse are not eligible to compete.
- Applicant must be in attendance on-site at the LFBF Annual Convention to compete.
- Previous AFBF Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete.
- Past state YF&R Discussion Meet winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees or agents of parish, state and/or the 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 at the state or national level since January 1, 2019, 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.
- Each parish Farm Bureau may submit one entry to be considered for state recognition and must use the LFBF online entry form.

Entry Form & Application Guidelines

- The entry form below is an example of the information needed for the official online application. No emailed or mailed entry forms will be accepted. All entry forms must be submitted using the JotForm online application.
- Parish Farm Bureaus have permission to reproduce the attached entry form for parish level competition or as a recruitment tool.

Note: Disregarding any of the guidelines listed above will result in disqualification.

VIRTUAL CONVENTION: If LFBF is unable to hold the 2024 Annual Convention in-person for any reason, the competitive events could be held virtually. In the event of virtual competitions, changes in timing and format of the competitions are likely to be required. For example, some portions of the competition may take place prior to the virtual convention. Applicants will be advised as soon as possible after the decision is made.

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 three rounds: two opening rounds, and a Final Four.
 - All competitors will compete in one of the first two rounds. The top four competitors based on judges' scores will move on to the Final Four round in order 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 Opening Rounds, participants will have 25 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time.
- During the Final Four round, participants will have 30 minutes of open discussion, followed by one minute of quiet time.

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

Finalists

Applicants are able to apply for both the LFBF Discussion Meet and the LFBF Achievement Award or the LFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award. Those applicants who are selected as a finalist in either the LFBF Achievement Award or the LFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award will not be allowed to participate in the Discussion Meet and will have their application pulled; no replacement will be allowed.

Parish Promotion of State Contests

Parish Farm Bureaus are required to advertise the parish applicant **one** time during the year through a print advertisement, an article in a local publication(s), or on social media. These promotions will qualify the parish entries to receive the state prizes, should they be the winner or finalist of **one** of the state competitions. **Promotion must be specific to promoting the LFBF YF&R competitions and must recognize the parish applicant.**

PowerPoint Competitor Template

PowerPoint competitor templates that highlight the parish entry must be completed using the template provided by LFBF. This template is available from the state YF&R coordinator. It should include the applicant's 500-character bio written in third person and 2-3 pictures of the applicant and their agricultural operation or involvement. Please include crediting information for photos in the appropriate section of the signature page. *All pictures and presentations become the property of LFBF.*

Deadline

Parishes are encouraged to select their entries in time for recognition at their parish annual meeting. The parish's entry form and application must be submitted using the JotForm online system via the Louisiana Farm Bureau website (www.lafarmbureau.org) **on or before 11:59 p.m. CST March 1, 2024. The parish's signatures, state contest advertisement and competitor PowerPoints are also due at this time** to be considered for state recognition and awards.

Tentative Prize List

- John Deere 4x2 Gator Utility Vehicle (courtesy of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company)
- Trip to AFBF Convention in San Antonio, TX, January 2025 for winner (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$750 Cash (courtesy of Gowan Company)
- \$500 Cash (courtesy of Syngenta)
- \$250 Cash (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$250 Cash (courtesy of Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Companies)

**Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet**

2024 Entry Form

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Please submit this form via the online submission process. No emailed or mailed entry forms will be accepted.

The parish's entry form and application must be submitted using the JotForm online system via the Louisiana Farm Bureau website **on or before 11:59 p.m. CST May 1, 2024.**

Applicant*: _____

* Will be used in the program and for recognition

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Education/Degree: _____

Are you an alumnus of any of the following youth organizations? (Check all that apply)

4-H AFA FFA MANRRS

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I hereby certify the information on this entry form to be accurate and true statements. **LFBF DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY BY A PARISH FARM BUREAU OFFICE.** LFBF 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 LFBF YF&R Committee, which are final and binding.

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Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby certify that the above-named applicant is the official parish entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for LFBF's Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet for 2024.

Parish President Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parish: _____

Membership #: _____