

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

Rules for 2018 LFBF Annual Convention Competition

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. **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.** It is recommended that parish Farm Bureaus provide an expenses-paid trip to the LFBF State Convention held in 2018 in New Orleans, June 21-June 24. Appropriate recognition will be given to all state competitors in attendance at the LFBF State 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 his/her parish Farm Bureau. The individual shall have reached his/her 18th birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the state competition and shall not have reached his/her 36th birthday by Jan. 31, 2019.
- Participant must be actively engaged in agriculture.
- Participant may only compete in one state YF&R Competition per year.
- Past state YF&R Discussion Meet winners are not eligible to compete.
- Current employees of parish, state and/or American Farm Bureaus 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.
- Each parish may submit one entry to be considered for state recognition and must use the LFBF entry form.

Note: Disregarding any of the guideline 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.
- The competition will consist of Round Robins and a Final Four.
 - All competitors will compete in a Round Robin. 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 Round Robins 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.

Note: More detailed information regarding the competition can be found in the LFBF Discussion Meet Manual.

Deadline

Applications must be **received** in the state office no later than MAY 1, 2018. The digital version of this application can be found online at www.lafarmbureau.org. Each parish should take advantage of the opportunity for much valuable publicity and promotion in recognizing its parish winners on a local level.

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.

Tentative Prize List

- John Deere 4x2 Gator Utility Vehicle (courtesy of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company)
- Trip to AFBF Convention in New Orleans, January 2019 for winner (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$1500 Equipment Rental (courtesy of H&E Equipment Services)
- \$750 Cash (courtesy of Gowan Company)
- \$500 Cash (courtesy of Syngenta)
- \$250 Visa Gift Card (courtesy of Conquest Completion Services, LLC)
- \$250 Choice Hotels Gift Card (courtesy of LFBF)
- \$250 Farm Bureau Bank Card (courtesy of Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance Companies)

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2018 Entry Form

Note: Please complete this form using the application online at www.lafarmbureau.org. All applications must be **typed** in the form provided. No handwritten applications will be accepted.

The applicant should carefully read through this application and entry form before filling out any part of it. The parish winner's application and entry form must be **received in the state office on or before May 1, 2018** to the office of Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, PO Box 95004, Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004 or megang@lfbf.org.

Discussion Meet applicants are able to apply for the LFBF Achievement Award, LFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award, and LFBF Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award. Those applicants who are selected as a finalist in either the LFBF Achievement Award or the Excellence in Agriculture Award will not be able to participate in the Discussion Meet.

Applicant*: _____
**Will be used for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Education/Degree: _____

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 video footage for use in promoting Farm Bureau. The photos and/or video 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.

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 2018.

Parish President Signature _____
Date

Parish _____
Membership #