

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

**Rules for 2022 GFB YF&R Discussion Meet**

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**Background**

The Discussion Meet is a competition promoted by the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation (GFB) 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.** The AFBF YF&R Committee and the AFBF Leadership, Education and Engagement department will coordinate the program at the national level.

**COVID-19: If GFB is unable to hold the 2022 YF&R Summer Leadership Conference in-person due to COVID-19, the competitive events will be held virtually, and all applicants should be made aware of this possibility prior to their application.**

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 county Farm Bureau. The individual shall have reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time he/she qualifies for the national competition and shall not have reached his/her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday by Jan. 31, 2023.
- Participant must be actively engaged in agriculture.
- Participant may only compete in one national 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.
- Previous AFBF Discussion Meet competitors are not eligible to compete. Past state YF&R Discussion Meet winners are eligible if they have not previously competed at the national level.
- Current employees or agents of county, 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 who were responsible for implementing any of the YF&R Competitive Events 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.
- Each county may submit entries to be considered for state recognition and must use the GFB entry form.

**Entry Form & Application Guidelines**

- The entry form below should be submitted through the online portal ([gfb.ag/YFRcompete](http://gfb.ag/YFRcompete)). No emailed or mailed entry forms will be accepted.

**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.
- The competition will consist of four rounds: two opening rounds, Sweet 16 and Final Four.
  - All competitors will compete in the first two rounds. The top 16 competitors based on judges' scores will move on to the Sweet 16 round.
  - The top competitor in each of the third-round rooms 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 and Sweet 16, 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.

### **Deadline**

Entry forms should be submitted through the online portal ([gfb.ag/YFRcompete](http://gfb.ag/YFRcompete)) by **June 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

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**2022 Entry Form**

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No emailed or mailed entry forms will be accepted. The entry form must be submitted via the online portal **on or before 5:00 p.m. June 1, 2022**

Applicant\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Will be used in the program and for recognition*

Phonetic Pronunciation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

College Student? ☐ YES ☐ NO Name of College: \_\_\_\_\_

Education/Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief biographical sketch:

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

**COVID-19**

If GFB is unable to hold the 2022 YF&R Summer Leadership Conference in-person due to COVID-19, the competitive events will be held virtually. All applicants must be made aware of this possibility prior to their application. 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 originally scheduled dates. Applicants will be advised as soon as possible after the decision is made.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the above-named applicant is an official county entry and is therefore eligible to be entered in and considered for GFB's Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet for 2022.

County President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_