



TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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September 27, 2017

**TO: County YF&R Chairmen & Secretaries
County Farm Bureau Secretaries**

RE: DISCUSSION MEET CONTEST

Dear Friends:

The Tennessee Farm Bureau has sponsored the Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet for several years. Detailed information about the "Discussion Meet" on the county, district, state, and national level are included in Section IV of the YF&R Reference Handbook which is posted on the YF&R Website. We also have a Discussion Meet **Information Guide** with background information on all five topics which is available at the TFBF Office or can be emailed to you. Enclosed is a list of the 2017 Discussion Meet topics.

We encourage you to work with your Farm Bureau Board of Directors in sponsoring a County "Discussion Meet" and/or select participants from your county to enter the State Contest. The State Contest will be held during the TFBF State Convention in Franklin at the Cool Springs Embassy Suites on **Saturday and Sunday, December 2 & 3, 2017**.

Participants in the Discussion Meet are **not limited** to counties with active YF&R groups. There is no limit to the number of participants that may enter the State Contest from a county. Also, remember that **previous state winners are ineligible** to compete. **Participants are required to be Farm Bureau members, and the county Farm Bureau president must sign the application.**

We are pleased to announce that this year's **state winner** will receive a John Deere Ztrak Mower from TriGreen Equipment and \$1,500 cash award from Tennessee Farm Bureau. In addition, the State Discussion Meet winner will win trips to the AFBF National Convention in Nashville, TN on January 5-10, 2018 and the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference on February 16-19, 2018 in Reno, Nevada. **Each qualified contestant** will receive a \$200 cash award from TFBF. The **final four** will each receive a \$500 cash award from TFBF. The **second place winner** will receive an additional \$750 cash award from TFBF, a trip to the AFBF National Convention, and a trip to the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference. The National Discussion Meet winner will receive a **2018 truck** to keep. All **contestants must attend** the Leadership Recognition Program on Sunday, December 3 at the Marriott at 7:00 p.m. to receive any cash awards.

Your entry form **must be postmarked or received in our office no later than November 15, 2017** to be in the state contest. An application is attached to this memo and is posted on the Farm Bureau Website at www.tnyfr.org.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Enclosure

2017 DISCUSSION MEET TOPICS

1. Farmers are a shrinking percentage of the population. How can Farm Bureau help first-generation farmers and ranchers get started in agriculture?
2. With a growing demand for US farm products abroad, how can agriculture overcome public skepticism of foreign trade to negotiate new trade agreements and open new world markets?
3. Formation of family farm corporations is common practice. How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that the public's positive perception of the family farm is not lost?
4. How can farmers and ranchers maintain their buying power with the continued trend of input supplier and provider consolidations?
5. How can Farm Bureau help members with increasing legal and regulatory obstacles so they can focus on farming and ranching?