



2026 YOUNG LEADER

DISCUSSION MEET

Topics for District Discussion Meets:

Growth in rural areas can strain rural energy infrastructure. How can Farm Bureau work with stakeholders to advocate for proactive planning at the local, state and national levels that safeguards affordable, reliable energy access for farmers and ranchers as well as their rural neighbors while protecting farmland from unnecessary eminent domain?

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?

Additional Topics for State Competition:

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?

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?

How can Farm Bureau and its young leaders leverage relationships with agricultural youth organizations to attract more young leaders to the Young Farmers & Ranchers program?

Districts	Date	Location	Orientation Time	Contest Starting Time
1	Thurs. July 30	DeKalb County FB, Sycamore	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
2	Mon. Aug. 24	Stephenson County FB, Freeport	6:00 PM	6:15 PM
3	Wed. Aug 12	Henry County FB, Cambridge	5:00 PM	6:30 PM
4	Wed. July 22	LaSalle County FB, Ottawa	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
5 & 6	Tues. July 28	Kankakee County Extension Office	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
7 & 8	Wed. July 22	Tazewell County FB, Pekin	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
9	Wed. Aug. 12	Brown County FB, Mount Sterling	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
10	Wed. July 29	Cass-Morgan FB, Jacksonville	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
11	Thurs. Aug. 6	Macon County FB, Decatur	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
12	Wed. July 29	Champaign County FB, Champaign	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
13 & 17	Wed. Aug 12	Edwards County FB, Albion	5:00 PM	5:45 PM
14	Wed. July 22	Fayette County FB, Vandalia	7:00 PM	7:30 PM
15 & 16	Tues. Aug. 18	St. Clair County FB, Belleville	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
18	Tues. July 21	Massac County FB, Metropolis	6:00 PM	6:30 PM

Contact your county Farm Bureau for eligibility and contest information.
For more information, visit ilfb.org/yldiscussionmeet