

Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Youth Discussion Meet Questions 2019 4-H and FFA Competitions



1. It is predicted that over the next five years 60,000 high-skilled agriculture related jobs will be open annually across the United States. However, only approximately 35,000 will be filled with graduates equipped with agriculture-related degrees or certificates. Discuss what obstacles are preventing students from pursuing these opportunities. What programs encourage young people to pursue a degree, certificate or career in agriculture?
 - a. Resources: Ag Careers: <https://www.agcareers.com/>
 - b. USDA: <https://www.purdue.edu/usda/employment/>
 - c. Council of Agriculture Education: <https://www.ffa.org/thecouncil>
 - d. STEM Jobs: <https://www.stemjobs.com/incredible-stem-careers-in-agriculture/>

2. Agriculture is continually under fire because of both real and perceived issues with environmental impact, animal welfare and human health effects. Discuss existing methods and new production ideas and the impacts they have on the environment and human and animal health. What can a 4-H/FFA member do now and in the future to be a good steward of resources and advocate for agriculture?
 - a. Resources: Minnesota Farm Living: <http://www.mnfarmliving.com/2015/10/top-5-ways-young-people-can-become-ag-advocates.html>
 - b. NewGen Farmer: <https://www.farmprogress.com/blogs-why-farmers-need-advocate-agriculture-8628>
 - c. National Hog Farmer: <https://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/business/agricultural-advocacy-movement-grows>
 - d. Example video to show why Agriculture Advocacy is important: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DY-GgzZKxUQ>

3. Progress in agriculture is often driven by organizations which contribute to the industry. Discuss the progress that has been made in agriculture via organizations such as Farm Bureau. How will Virginia Farm Bureau remain relevant into the next century and what role will FFA and 4-H play?
 - a. USDA: <https://nifa.usda.gov/topic/agriculture-technology>
 - b. Source: <https://www.advanc-ed.org/source/importance-agricultural-education-and-ffa>
 - c. Education World: https://www.educationworld.com/a_news/boosting-k-12-agriculture-education-its-relation-stem-1654916265
 - d. Ag. In the Classroom: <https://www.agclassroom.org/>

