

Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Youth Discussion Meet Questions 2020 4-H and FFA Competitions



1. How do you as young agriculturalists lead your youth organizations to break the current attitude of “us versus them” in American farming practices? Examples include organic versus conventional farming, small versus large, traditional versus non-traditional, local versus global, direct marketing versus retail, producer versus consumer.

Resource link: Farm Bureau Fast Facts

2. With on-farm income declining and farmland losses to urbanization on the rise, what can be done to improve the general mental health and reduce personal stress on farmers and agriculturalists? How can your organization reduce the stigma in rural communities that prevents many individuals from getting help before it’s too late?

Resource link: Mental Health in Agriculture article from Ohio Ag Net

3. Accessing a reliable and well-trained workforce continues to be one of the most difficult aspects of farming. What steps need to be taken to change how careers on the farm are viewed and to encourage better labor options for farmers? What organizations can help or hinder this process and how might they impact the farm labor challenge?

Resource link: Farm Bureau Labor Report

4. Special interest groups are working to sway public opinion so that animals are completely removed from farming and food systems. What can agriculturalists and the organizations we support do to move public opinion in a better direction? How do we accomplish safe animal care and keep public opinion from preventing practices that are scientifically proven to be in the best interest of animals in agriculture?

Resource link: Farm Bureau Animal Care Message

5. Recognizing, not every school system can simply add an agriscience education department or every county has funds to increase their 4-H Extension staff, how could your youth organization reach students who do not have access to agricultural opportunities and help them understand the depth of agricultural careers or opportunities?

Resource link: Agriculture in the Classroom Careers Lesson

