

Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Youth Discussion Meet Questions 2022 4-H and FFA Competitions



1. 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

2. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many challenges in our nation's food supply chain. While farmers, processors and retailers were able to continue providing adequate food, the shortages created opportunities to learn about and resolve weaknesses in the system. As leaders in your youth organizations, how can young agriculturalists use lessons learned in 2020 to strengthen the industry for the future?

Resource links: <https://www.agrinews-pubs.com/2020/12/17/lessons-learned-from-pandemic/aeg01zq/>
<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/article/2020/06/01/lessons-pandemic>

3. Many of our youth in agriculture do not come from a farm background and have few farm experiences but do have a growing excitement for opportunities in the industry. How do we help youth become better prepared for a career in the agricultural industry beyond in-class instruction and showing livestock? What can Farm Bureau do to help our youth participating in 4-H, FFA or other youth organizations gain on-farm experience?

Resource link: <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2018/03/20/agricultural-youth-opportunities-journey-future-career-success>

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2019/youth_loans-fact_sheet-aug_2019.pdf

4. The Chesapeake Bay is a treasured national resource that is largely in Virginia, and farmers have gone to great lengths to protect water quality through on-farm best management practices. What actions can be taken by youth in agriculture to help communicate with legislators and non-farm populations about the positive steps agriculture is taking to protect the environment?

Resource link: <https://www.agfoundation.org/news/4-ways-farmers-steward-the-land>
<http://www.explorebeef.org/protectingresources.html>

