

2017 Wisconsin Association of FFA Discussion Meet Topics

District Discussion Meet Topics:

- 1. How can a local community play a role to ensure the viability of a quality agricultural education program within their school?**
 - Partnerships - Role of parents, businesses, organizations and school administration
 - Promotion of benefits to community and school
 - Impact on students and quality of education
 - Supporting Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs
- 2. What role, if any, should Agriculture play in addressing health and nutrition issues?**
 - Healthy Living Initiatives
 - Nutrition Education - Challenges and opportunities in educating the public
 - Partnerships
 - Impact from the dinner table to school lunch to snack foods
 - Needs of consumers - Feeding a growing population
- 3. How should Agricultural Education/FFA address the national shortage of certified agricultural educators and the need for more people to enter the Agricultural Education teaching profession?**
 - Image of teachers among today's students and local communities.
 - Promotion of the facts about Agricultural Education
 - Establishing a future supply of educators
 - Implications on future programs and opportunities for students

Sectional and State Discussion Meet Topics:

- 1. Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Agricultural Education help consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food?**
 - Consumer education and responsibility
 - Food distribution and direct marketing
 - Flashy packaging vs. accurate information
 - Public's perception of food products
- 2. As the average age of a farmer continues to rise, what can be done to encourage young people to become involved in production agriculture?**
 - Recruitment of younger generation
 - Transfer of land
 - Loans and financial assistance programs
 - Educational programs for young producers.
- 3. Have farmers and agriculturists effectively utilized social media to inform and influence the public? What strategies can be implemented to expand the interaction between producers and consumers?**
 - Combating misinformation (i.e. HSUS, PETA, Food Babe)
 - Speaking to non-farm audiences
 - Providing transparency within the industry (virtual tours, demonstrations, etc.)
 - Working with agriculture groups to amplify agriculture's message
- 4. What are the best practices for youth working on farms and ranches to ensure their safety and provide them learning opportunities in the area of agriculture production?**
 - Partnerships - Role of parents, employers, and FFA Alumni
 - Impact on work force – OSHA, laws and restrictions
 - Supporting Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs
 - Age-appropriate responsibilities
 - Education – Farm Safety Days, Safety Camps, Agri-tourism