

2023 National FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Prelim A Questions

Advancing Agriculture Through Agricultural Science

1. What challenges do you foresee within the US meat industry with the invention of lab grown meat?
2. What is the difference between sustainable agriculture and regenerative agriculture?
3. The world is experiencing drastic weather changes. Farmers and ranchers are struggling to keep their operations afloat during all of this. What resources or programs are there to help farmers and ranchers combat climate change?

Agricultural Literacy and Advocacy

4. With entertainment just a click of the finger away, how can this generation increase involvement in agricultural groups and service groups?
5. What is school-based agricultural education's role in agricultural literacy?
6. How can farmers and ranchers across the country help bridge the gap between the consumers and the farm?

Agrimarketing and International Agriculture

7. What is the average age of a farmer in our nation and how can this impact our economy?
8. What social media solutions do farmers and ranchers have when it comes to marketing their food?
9. How does the average consumer's preferences and beliefs influence agriculture practices on the farm or ranch?

Current Agricultural Issues

10. If you were asked to give an interview on important issues in agriculture that will affect the future of our country, what issues would you share and why?
11. What event in the past year do you think has had the biggest effect on farmers and ranchers connecting with consumers?
12. What is the importance of agricultural productivity in the context of sustainability and food security?

Food and Fiber Systems

13. What is the value of farmers and ranchers being part of a commodity group or other agricultural group?
14. Urban farming is increasing in popularity, how can we incorporate these individuals into our agriculture organizations?
15. What, if any, role does crop diversity have in enhancing agricultural sustainability?

Current Technology Use and Application in Agriculture

16. How would you explain modern farming to a consumer?
17. How should gene editing be shared with consumers to avoid the initial fears they have about GMOs?
18. Technology in agriculture is advancing at an incredible rate. What benefits and challenges do these technological breakthroughs bring to the human side of farming?

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Prelim B Questions

Advancing Agriculture Through Agricultural Science

1. How is the current sustainability movement affecting agriculture?
2. What are some forms of water conservation practices that could be utilized to increase our water use efficiency?
3. What examples can you give about recent promising scientific breakthroughs that address food insecurity?

Agricultural Literacy and Advocacy

4. How can we bring agricultural education to schools that don't have an agricultural education program?
5. Urban communities often have little to no connection to agriculture. How can FFA members find unique ways to educate these consumers about agriculture?
6. Why is it important for farmers and ranchers to educate consumers on where their food comes from?

Agrimarketing and International Agriculture

7. There are a large number of labels on foods at grocery stores that often confuse consumers. What are some regulations that could ensure these labels share information that is accurate and clear?
8. Farmers have to wear many hats to run their business. What resources are available to help farmers with learning about business, management skills and financial knowledge?
9. What is the difference between agricultural marketing and consumer marketing and why is it important that farmers and ranchers know the difference?

Current Agricultural Issues

10. What challenges do young agriculturists face with an ever-aging farmer population in the United States?
11. Extreme weather events continue to impact agriculture across the nation. What can we do to be better prepared for these emergencies?
12. Finding a skilled and stable labor force is a challenge across all industries. What can be done to improve the labor outlook within agriculture?

Food and Fiber Systems

13. People worry about the supply chain. What can agriculturalists do to ensure others that there will be food on the shelves in grocery stores?
14. Why is the Farm Bill an important piece of legislation? What does it mean for farmers and ranchers?
15. Why are diverse energy supply sources important to American agriculture?

Current Technology Use and Application in Agriculture

16. How can data analytics and other information technology help agriculturalists produce more with less?
17. Is the implementation of cutting edge technology always in the best interest of agricultural production? Why or why not?
18. What technologies exist to stop the spread of agricultural pathogens across the globe?

2023 National FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Semi-Final Round Questions

Advancing Agriculture Through Agricultural Science

1. Which is the bigger force to reckon with in production agriculture: consumer demand or ever-changing environmental pressures? Why?
2. What is the biggest hurdle facing the National FFA Organization in the next five years?
3. Climate disasters are affecting farmers at increasing rates each year. What steps can farmers take to be better prepared for these situations?

Agricultural Literacy and Advocacy

4. What implications arise with the delay in passing the 2023 Farm Bill? How will the Farm Bill impact farmers and everyday citizens?
5. How can farmers and ranchers share their values with consumers that they might never meet?
6. How can student leadership and civic engagement bridge the gap between the producer and consumer?

Agrimarketing and International Agriculture

7. Direct to consumer marketing has become more popular since the pandemic. What suggestions do you have for farmers who are looking to expand into this direct marketing space?
8. Farms are often run by people who are from different generations. What obstacles can this cause in a business and what can be done to overcome these obstacles?
9. How does e-commerce fill holes in the shrinking local agricultural support system? What are other ways farms can get the services they need to be economically sustainable?

Current Agricultural Issues

10. What is the “right to repair”, and why is it a major topic for farmers and ranchers?
11. What do you think is meant by the statement “Farmers are the original environmentalists”?
12. Mental health in the agricultural industry is a major topic of concern, what should be done to address this issue?

Food and Fiber Systems

13. What challenges does a sixth generation farmer or rancher face that a first generation farmer or rancher does not? Conversely, what challenges does a first generation farmer or rancher face that a sixth generation farmer or rancher does not?
14. What do you want consumers to know about how farmers and ranchers work with other entities in the food chain (packers, shippers, retailers, etc.) on sustainability and animal care issues?
15. What are the biggest transportation and infrastructure threats to agriculture?

2023 Semi-Final Round Questions (continued)

Current Technology Use and Application in Agriculture

16. With technology increasing yields rapidly over the last 30 years, what ways has this affected the agriculture industry?
17. Drones are becoming increasingly regulated for non-commercial use. How could the regulation of drones impact small-scale farmers?
18. How could biofortification help ensure a more nutritious food supply?

2023 National FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Final Round Questions

Advancing Agriculture Through Agricultural Science

1. The U.S. dairy industry has pledged to be carbon neutral by the year 2050, what challenges do you see farmers facing to accomplish this goal?
2. As the world grapples with solutions to combat climate change, the production of renewable energy is top of mind for many people. What solutions can you propose that can increase the production of renewable energy, but not take prime agricultural land out of production?
3. Compare and contrast the benefits of public and private agricultural research.

Agricultural Literacy and Advocacy

4. Getting farmers and ranchers to the state or national capitol to advocate for the industry is difficult as they are busy farming and ranching. What can we do to better assist them to get them in front of their elected officials?
5. How can farmers and ranchers create and maintain good relationships with neighbors and people in their community?
6. Regulations over important management practices like herbicide and pesticide use seem to be under extreme scrutiny in rural America. How can farmers and ranchers advocate for their use and educate EPA on their importance?

Agrimarketing and International Agriculture

7. With farms becoming increasingly consolidated, what federal policies need to be enacted to ensure opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers?
8. How can we create more networking opportunities with farmers from around the world to better understand the difficulties other countries are facing in the agriculture industry?
9. Do you believe that the United States should enact restrictions on the amount of private U.S. agricultural land that can be foreign owned? Why or why not? If so, what restrictions would you propose?

2023 Final Round Questions (continued)

Current Agricultural Issues

10. Two hundred and sixty lawmakers, more than half, were not in Congress in 2018 and have no prior experience with voting on a Farm Bill. How can farmers and ranchers best work with their federal representatives to ensure passage in 2023 of this key piece of legislation?
11. Conflict across the globe has impacts on supply chain and agricultural markets. How can American farmers, ranchers, producers, and forest-land owners address issues rooted in global conflict as they make management decisions?
12. FDA's Guidance for Industry #263 went into effect June 2023, requiring veterinary prescriptions for livestock antibiotics which have previously been available over the counter? How will this regulation affect livestock producers?

Food and Fiber Systems

13. There's no question that state laws like California's Prop 12 will have impacts on the production of food animals in the United States. What can we do to help ensure that farmers are able to comply with these new production standards and remain profitable?
14. Are you in favor of federal agricultural policies or passing agricultural policies on a state-by-state basis? Why?
15. American agriculture depends on a skilled, reliable workforce to help raise a sustainable food supply. What should be included in a guest worker visa program to help ensure security to both farm owners and their employees?

Current Technology Use and Application in Agriculture

16. There has been a lot of interest in artificial intelligence (AI) over the last year. What do you see as the future of AI within the agriculture industry?
17. Modern agricultural production allows for the collection of large amounts of data through production and marketing of agricultural products, when and how should this data be shared and when should it be kept secure?
18. Mexico recently announced they plan to phase out GMO corn by 2024. What information can be provided to policymakers and the general public regarding safety in GMO products?