

## **2015 Wisconsin Association of FFA Discussion Meet Topics**

### ***District Discussion Meet Topics:***

- 1. How will American agriculture meet the challenges of a growing population?**
  - Food and fiber production
  - Urban sprawl - Loss of farmland and declining resources
  - Innovation and technology
  - Career opportunities for future agriculturists
  - Creating partnerships to strengthen agricultural education's role in a school system
- 2. What is the best approach Agricultural Education can take to ensure its presence in tomorrow's educational system?**
  - Benefits to students, schools and communities, and investment needed from school districts
  - Advocacy and partnerships – FFA Alumni
  - Needs of high school students – credit requirements, graduation, college and career ready
  - Role of parents, businesses, organizations, and school administration
  - Opportunities for student leadership development
- 3. The U.S. has the safest food supply in the world. How do farmers continue to improve the public's perception of their products?**
  - Domestic supply
  - International supply
  - Industry safety standards vs. government safety standards
  - Inclusion of all types of production agriculture and consumer choices
  - Advocacy and improving public perception

### ***Sectional and State Discussion Meet Topics:***

- 1. What can be done to encourage more young people to enter production agriculture?**
  - Agricultural Education's role in promoting production agriculture
  - Transition of farms from retiring farmers to beginning farmers
  - Programs and opportunities to attract young farmers
  - Resources offered by the government, agriculture groups and organizations
  - Urban agriculture opportunities
- 2. Should farmers and ranchers be held liable for possible food-borne illnesses when the food item of concern can be traced back to their farms or ranches? Why or why not?**
  - Role of farmers in ensuring food safety
  - Role of government agencies and what level of oversight are farmers willing to accept
  - Food distribution and direct marketing
  - Consumer education and consumer responsibility
- 3. How can we convince the public that the animal agriculture industry balances production efficiencies with the public's expectations of animal care?**
  - Perception of corporate/family farming and animal agriculture
  - Animal Welfare
  - Education from producer to consumer
  - Needs of customers – feeding a growing population
  - Social impact when public is misinformed or misled about animal agriculture
- 4. What does the future hold for bioengineered crops and animals?**
  - Public perception of GMOs
  - Education and promotion of the facts
  - International market acceptance
  - Consumer concerns for labeling and food safety