



Summer 2009

Volume 2: Issue 3

2009 Competitive Events

Discussion Meet—The Discussion Meet provides an opportunity for greater participation on the part of young, active farmers and ranchers and helps them develop a greater command of basic discussion skills. The three fundamentals of general discussion are constructive criticism, cooperation and communication. The contestant's responsibility is to exchange ideas and information in an effort to solve a problem.

The California Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers State Committee will open registration on Saturday evening, December 5th at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. Two round robin contests, a sweet sixteen round and a final round will be held at the same location on Sunday, December 6th. The first topic will be announced during registration, while the rest of the topics will be announced following each round of discussion.

This contest has two divisions: collegiate and open. The collegiate contest is for undergraduate college students, not enrolled in a graduate level program at the time of their state Collegiate Discussion Meet competitive event, involved in a college of agriculture with at least a minor in an agricultural field of study. The open contest is for YF&R's between the ages of 18-35. The prizes are well worth the effort! The winner of the open division will win a Dodge truck valued at \$30,000, plus \$4000 in cash. The collegiate winner will take home \$500. Both will represent California at their respective national contests in January 2010. For more details please check out <http://www.cfbf.com/programs/yfr/meet.cfm>

Achievement Award—The Achievement Award competition judges the operating efficiency of young farmers and ranchers and is based on leadership, creativity and proven success. The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks. Winners of the California competition will travel to Seattle, Washington to compete in the national contest held at the AFBF Annual Meeting January 10-13, 2010. The application can be found at <http://www.cfbf.com/programs/yfr/pdf/AchievementAward2009.pdf>. The winner of this award will receive the use of a Kubota tractor for a year and a \$4000 cash prize.

Excellence in Agriculture—The Excellence in Agriculture Award is designed as an opportunity for Young Farmers & Ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from an owned agricultural operation, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture, to earn recognition. Participants are judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community). The state winner of this award will receive a \$4000 cash prize and represent California at the national contest in Seattle in January 2010. The application can be downloaded at <http://www.cfbf.com/programs/yfr/excellence.cfm>.



Save the Date!

CFBF Annual Meeting

December 5th-9th

**Disneyland
Hotel**

2009 Discussion Meet Topics

- 1: How can agricultural producers reach out to the public to gain their support on important issues impacting agriculture?**
 - Environmental
 - Animal Welfare
 - Food
 - Collaborating with other industries
- 2: 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
 - Conventional and/or organic
- 3: What can be done to encourage young people to get involved in the agricultural industry and remain there?**
 - Profitability
 - Niche marketing
 - Production agriculture
 - Agri-business
- 4: How can we continue to bridge the gap between farmers/ranchers and lawmakers in order to have an influence in the changing political environment?**
 - Different generations
 - Training (county, state, national)
 - Different industry segments

Don't Miss the Deadlines! October 1, 2009

A Message From Ist Vice Chair, Maria Azevedo



CA YF&R Ist Vice Chair,
Maria Azevedo

The State YF&R Committee held goal setting sessions as part of our summer meeting in Rohnert Park. During this time we hashed out our goals for the next two years. The session was thoughtful, tough, intense, and amazingly accomplished within 4 hours! Special thanks to Matt DeMarco from American Farm Bureau Federation for facilitating the session. He led the committee through prioritizing what are important and attainable goals through our sub-committees of Political Action, Leadership, Contests, and Promotions. Our goals allow us to serve the California Farm Bureau Federation and establish an example to our many county YF&R Committees. Why is this important to you? Many of the goals deal with events and responsibilities to ensure we are a professional committee while achieving our mission statement:

The mission of the State Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee (YF&R) is to attract and empower future Farm Bureau leaders and increase the interest in agriculture as a way of life.

Working out our goals set the stage for the rest of the day as we finished our

committee business before heading out to Dutton Ranch to meet with President Mosebar. As we drove, we passed apple orchards and beautiful vineyards – the heart of Sonoma County and an area you'll be able to experience first hand during the tours at the Leadership Conference in March! Once we arrived we had a special opportunity to ask President Mosebar questions ranging from technology to politics to advice for us as Young Farmers & Ranchers. This was a great chance to visit with the President of the organization and I hope each of you get to do the same during your time in YF&R.

A couple of things to keep in mind as we look ahead:

The 2010 Leadership Conference will be held in Rohnert Park. Our Leadership sub-committee is underway with planning and preparing a fun and eventful conference for you. We are excited to have Troy and Stacy Hadrick from Advocates of Agriculture speaking at our conference. They will share with us the power of telling our story about our farms, businesses, and livelihoods. I invite you to check out their Facebook page, Twitter, Advocates for Agriculture blog, or the website www.advocatesforag.com. What a great example of building upon their message through social networking! While you are there check out the CFBF YF&R Facebook

and Myspace pages and be sure to add us as a friend.

What do the Commodity Advisory Committee, Open Discussion Meet, Leadership Farm Bureau, Excellence in Agriculture Award, and the Achievement Award all have in common? **October 1st** is the deadline. Help fill these positions by nominating and showcasing the talented YF&R's found within your county committee. The experience gained from any of these opportunities is inexpensive training for future endeavors and goal accomplishments, either professional or personal.

Watch out Disneyland, California Farm "Bureaus" are coming! The CFBF Annual Meeting in Anaheim this December is where we will host our Collegiate and Open Discussion Meet contests and have our FARM PAC fundraiser. We need help with basket donations for our fundraiser. Please speak to your State Committee Member and let them know how you can help!

As always, for more information, check out the YF&R section of www.cfbf.com.

Thanks everyone for being part of a powerful, unique, and diverse California YF&R!



State YF&R Committee members participate in a teambuilding exercise, led by Matt DeMarco of AFBF.

Harvest For All A Bushel, A Dollar, An Hour

Harvest for All is a partnership between American Farm Bureau, specifically the Young Farmers & Ranchers, and Feeding America (formally known as America's Second Harvest) which helps to feed the millions of Americans who face hunger in our country everyday. The Harvest for All campaign includes activities organized by state and county Farm Bureaus in connection with local Feeding America affiliates across the country.

Whether the contribution is a bushel – a dollar – or an hour, Farm Bureau and Feeding America will be working together to finish an important job – making sure every American can enjoy the food produced on our farms and ranches.

Awards are given to the state with the most food, money, and time donated at the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference. Help put California back on top by contacting your local Feeding America Food Bank and donating today. For your local Feeding America Food Bank go to www.feedingamerica.org and use their Food Bank Locator.

CAC Opportunities

It's that time of year again! Commodity Advisory Committee Nominations are due October 1st! There are 15 available committees to serve, from Aquaculture to Dairy. Each year the Commodity Advisory Committees (CAC) work directly with policy makers at the Farm Bureau to discuss problems and determine solutions. Most Committees will meet during the CAC/Leaders Conference March 1-3, 2010.

County Events & Calendar

August 14, 2009 — The **Santa Cruz County YF&R's** are hosting County Ag Tours, including Bargetto Winery and Driscoll's brand new research facility. If anyone is interested in joining us email scyfr@sbcglobal.net for more details.

August 22, 2009 — Come join in at the **Santa Cruz County YF&R's** very first fundraiser dinner, a "Testicle Festival." We're serving up mountain oysters, chicken, fresh pasta and more! We will have live music at our event, The Bean Creek Blue Grass band, as well as a live and silent auction and raffle. Proceeds will benefit the YF&R committee, the SCCoFB, and Agri-Culture (an organization that educates the public about agriculture).

State Committee Nominations

Looking to build your leadership skills through state YF&R activities? Nomination packets are available by emailing yfr@cfbf.com. View the current YF&R State Committee & vacant seats on page 4.

Due October 1, 2009

Leadership Farm Bureau

Now, more than ever, is the time to invest in yourself by applying for Leadership Farm Bureau, a leadership development program sponsored by the California Farm Bureau Federation in order to provide perspective and training in areas ranging from personal development to political advocacy.

Applications for the class of 2010 can be found at CFBF.com and are due by October 15, 2009.



Leadership Farm Bureau Class of 2009

Federal Deficit Task Force

Are you a little concerned with our governments spending craze? Perhaps you worry what our increasing deficit will cost future generations, or the effect it will have on our global position as an American powerhouse? Your apprehensions are well warranted. Farm Bureau shares your concerns and for this reason they created the Federal Deficit Task Force.

The purpose of this Task Force is to look at the federal deficit in the United States in order to develop information for the membership on the depth of the problem and what some steps might be to try and bring it under control. The Task Force is a national, hand-selected committee of the American Farm Bureau, comprised of eight Farm Bureau members and one state Farm Bureau President. CFBF and the California YF&R in particular is honored to have our very own Ted Reimers on the committee.

We must get control of federal borrowing before it consumes us, before other countries decide to stop lending and while we can get control of the problem,” said Craig Lang, chairman of the task force and president of Iowa Farm Bureau.

The task force was to recommend ways to achieve a balanced federal budget by 2019. The task force looked at all parts of the budget, including healthcare and Social Security, from the congressional budget process to government revenues. The task force consisted of eight Farm Bureau members, four older representatives and four from the Young Farmer and Rancher program. The committee has been meeting since last December.

“We wanted a sense of how the problem was viewed by a range of people,” said Bob Stallman, President of American Farm Bureau Federation.

While analyzing the nation’s deficit, the task force cited increasing healthcare costs as a major impediment to balancing the budget. “The real 800-pound gorilla for future budgets is health care,” Lang said.

“The group recommended the AFBF policy process look at cutting healthcare spending by: implementing a centralized source to coordinate medical records, utilizing incentives for results (not procedures), preventive care, shortening hospital stays and limiting government sponsored coverage to only necessary and cost-effective procedures.

To accomplish the health care objectives the committee recommended policy discussions considering a program which would provide each citizen with a voucher sufficient to purchase a bare-bones, private health insurance policy. Such health care vouchers could be used only for insurance plans that incorporate reforms necessary to reduce the growth in health care costs. To encourage innovation, voucher financing would be determined on a regional basis, noted Lang.

After analyzing the complex healthcare issue, the group determined that solving Social Security was actually a more manageable problem that can be resolved by considering three measures: raising the normal retirement age and indexing eligibility to longevity, which would lower benefits or increasing trust fund revenues by removing the cap on taxable earnings.

“Social Security is a problem, said Lang. “While politically difficult, the solutions are more concrete than healthcare.”

The task force said there are really only two ways to balance the budget: lower spending or raise revenues, or some combination of the two. All programs outside of national defense should be under serious review and after reductions are made, consideration should then be turned to enhancing revenues, with any revenue generated going to lowering the deficit, not creating new programs.

The task force’s recommendations are concepts for consideration. They do not set or change AFBF policy.

“It is important to understand the information delivered by the task force is to inform members as they develop the organizations policy positions for 2010,” said Stallman. “We are a grassroots organization. Our members set our priorities.”



Ted Reimers, CA YF&R member and appointee to the AFBF Federal Deficit Task Force

Check out the Video Presentation by the Federal Deficit Task Force at:
<http://deficittaskforce.fb.org/>



Enter the CFBF Photo Contest!

State Committee 2009

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Got photos? Amateur photographers who are Farm

Bureau members can earn cash prizes by competing in the 2009 California Farm Bureau Photo Contest.

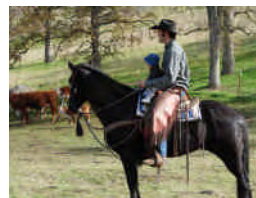
Members are encouraged to grab their cameras and enter photos that best highlight California agriculture. The Grand Prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$500, while prizes will also be awarded to first- and second-place winners in each of five categories. First-place winners will receive \$250 and second-place winners will receive \$100.

The five categories are: Kids & Critters; From Farm to Fork; All in a Day's Work on the Farm; Natural Beauty; and Budding Artists. Photos may be in color or black and white. They must be printed on photographic paper and measure at least 5 by 7 inches, but no larger than 8 1/2 by 11 inches, unmatted and unframed. Photos must have been taken in 2008 or 2009. Judges will consider the photo's composition, lighting, creativity and agricultural message.

In addition, aspiring shutterbugs 13 years and younger who are children of Farm Bureau members are encouraged to enter the "Budding Artists" category. Sponsored by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, prizes for this category include a total of \$350 in cash and copies of the book, "Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture."

All photos become the property of the California Farm Bureau and may be published in *Ag Alert* or *California Country* and other promotional items or activities. Winning photos will also be displayed on CFBF's Web sites (www.cfbf.com and www.californiacountry.org) and at the 2009 CFBF Annual Meeting December 6-9 in Anaheim, California.

All entries must be postmarked by Sept. 30, 2009. Entry forms and official contest rules are available on the Web at www.cfbf.com, www.californiacountry.org and from County Farm Bureaus. For more information or additional forms, contact Barbara Arciero or Chico Ochi in the CFBF Communications/News Division at (916) 561-5550 or at barciero@cfbf.com or cochi@cfbf.com.



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Vacant

Interested in filling a
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