

2014 National FFA Extemporaneous Questions SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Agriscience and Technology:

1. What new technology do you see as most important to the future of production agriculture?
2. With most Americans being 3-4 generations removed from the farm and the vast majority living in urban centers; how can we not only engage urban dwellers in learning about food production but also get them involved as urban farming entrepreneurs?
3. What are some barriers beginning farmers face when getting started farming? What can be done to overcome these barriers?

Agrimarketing and International Agriculture:

1. Should a large farmer/rancher be allowed to choose whether they want their goods sold/shipped overseas? Why or why not?
2. What is the best approach for handling negative agriculture campaigns from activist groups such as the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and anti-GMO groups?
3. How do consumer preferences in other countries affect US producers?

Food and Fiber Systems:

1. How does the food and fiber system contribute to the American economy? What would be the impact if the system were to fail?
2. Are government regulations necessary in agriculture? What are the positive and negative effects of having these regulations?
3. How should USDA focus grant money to have the biggest impact on production agriculture?

Urban Agriculture:

1. Should more public institutions (i.e. schools or prisons) have a garden program to help offset their food cost? What are the benefits and hurdles?
2. Beyond involvement in farmers markets, what opportunities do farmers have in urban settings?
3. What are the implications (positive and negative) of adding a community garden to a neighborhood?