

# 2016 National FFA Extemporaneous Questions

## PRELIMINARY 1

### **Food and Fiber Systems:**

1. What are the biggest challenges in communicating with consumers?
2. Why is it important that America's farmers, ranchers and growers have access to an adequate supply of foreign workers?
3. We know that consumers are moved most by hands-on experiences on the farm. How would you put this fact into practice if you ran a farm or ranch?

### **Agriscience and Technology:**

4. Finding skilled labor can be difficult. What are some of the ways you see technology helping labor scarcity? Are there advantages or disadvantages?
5. If you could develop one new technology that would advance agriculture, what would it be?
6. If you could create a new phone/tablet app to help farmers and ranchers do their job better, what would the look like/do?

### **Urban Agriculture:**

7. What barriers prevent more urban residents from engaging in farming?
8. What can conventional agriculture learn from urban agriculture? Vice versa?
9. What benefits do urban agriculture operations offer to the local community?

### **AgriMarketing and International Ag**

10. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers programs that facilitate the efficient, fair marketing of U.S. agricultural products, including food, fiber, and specialty crops. How important is it to have production agriculturalists as a part of this program? What ways can they help tell the true story of American agriculture to the consumer?
11. How does agriculture adapt to changing regional weather patterns while still meeting market needs?
12. What is the best approach for handling negative agriculture campaigns from anti-ag groups?

## **2016 National FFA Extemporaneous Questions PRELIMINARY 2**

### **Food and Fiber Systems:**

1. As more food retailers impose animal production standards on their suppliers and farmers, what are some impacts of moving away from science-based standards to consumer marketing-driven standards? Is the customer always right?
2. Farmers are much more attuned to talking about food today, but many foodies still discount the effort it takes to put food on the table. Can farmers do even more to reach an audience that is so disinterested in food at the production level?
3. How do you balance good stewardship with the need to earn a living from the land?

### **Agriscience and Technology:**

4. The integration of agriscience into agriculture education curriculums is an important consideration for a sound program. How can we increase (quantity and quality) our development of agriculturists?
5. How will farmers and ranchers be using drones five years from now?
6. How has the labeling of GMO products impacted the consumer's perceptions of GMO's and modern ag production?

### **Urban Agriculture:**

7. Is the trend of urban residents growing their own food in community, backyard and rooftop gardens a positive one? Why?
8. The urban food hubs concept incorporates food production, food preparation, food distribution and food waste / water management. What is the importance of these components being linked?
9. How can urban agriculture be used as a tool to teach urban-living audiences to agriculture?

### **AgriMarketing and International Ag**

10. What advice would you give to U.S. trade negotiators?
11. How do farmers ensure that they stay competitive in an even more globalized market?
12. How will the proposed consolidation of seed and ag chemical corporations impact the production ag industry?

## **2016 National FFA Extemporaneous Questions SEMI-FINALS**

### **Food and Fiber Systems:**

1. Shifts in consumer incomes, demographics, lifestyles, and perceptions of health and diet all play into the stability of the food and fiber system. Which of these areas is being changed or altered the most today and why?
2. The next farm bill – why is it important to maintain the tie between the farm program and food assistance/nutrition programs?
3. Farmers do a good job talking about transparency, but a lack of trust with the public can prevent them from putting it into practice. How would you convince a farmer to be more open with consumers?

### **Agriscience and Technology:**

4. Technology helps advance agriculture by being more efficient and eliminating intense labor. Do you think this causes a negative or positive effect on overall job growth in our economy and the agriculture industry?
5. Is it appropriate for regulators to use drones to monitor compliance of farmers and ranchers?
6. Is it possible to balance activists' calls for slow-growing chickens with the overall topic of sustainability, which would favor breeds that grow and produce meat more quickly with less feed and resources?

### **Urban Agriculture:**

7. Should urban agriculture be held to the same water restrictions as commercial agriculture in areas where urban centers are given priority?
8. What unique niche can urban agriculture fill in providing food in this country and abroad?
9. How should the success of urban agriculture be determined?

### **AgriMarketing and International Ag**

10. What role do international exchange programs have in advancing international agriculture?
11. What trade agreements have been most important to US agriculture?
12. The Food and Agriculture Organization says that “The road to resilience is paved with good governance.” What does good governance look like for supporting agricultural resilience?

## 2016 National FFA Extemporaneous Questions - FINALS

### **Food and Fiber Systems:**

1. Even though farming accounts for only about 1 percent of the total national workforce, it is at the core of the food and fiber system. How can we more effectively communicate with the other 99%?
2. The farm crisis of the 1980's illustrates how specific economic events can impact the food and fiber system. Do you feel with low commodity prices and the economy in its current state that a negative impact may occur in the food & fiber system in America in the next few years?
3. Regulations that govern land use penalize farmers more than any other sector. How would you advocate for incentive as an alternative?

### **Agriscience and Technology:**

4. Sustainable agriculture integrates three main goals—environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity. In today's farm economic climate, which of these is most important to remaining sustainable?
5. Gene editing, drones, precision farming, drought tolerance to adapt to climate change—which is the next breakthrough in ag technology, and how will it shape the future of farming and ranching?
6. It has been predicted that in vitro meat will be financially viable in 2027. Do you think in vitro meat will affect the livestock market positively or negatively?

### **Urban Agriculture:**

7. Urban agriculture can positively impact communities in many ways. How can FFA and agriculture education build a coalition to grow urban ag programs around the country?
8. What is urban agriculture's role in the world food system?
9. Should state governments regulate urban agriculture for small growers and if so, how should those regulations differ?

### **AgriMarketing and International Ag**

10. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a new, high-standard trade agreement that levels the playing field for American workers and American businesses, supporting more Made in America exports and higher-paying American jobs. How important is this agreement to the future of American agriculture and why?
11. Production economics, marketing, and policy development each acknowledge the existence of international agriculture trade, but they largely ignore the analytical challenge of understanding the behavior of international markets. What one area do you feel is most important to international agriculture trade for America?
12. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus has shrunk over the past two years as commodity prices have dropped and the U.S. dollar has remained strong. Is this important, and if so, what should be done about it?