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# 2026 Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet Manual



NPPC reserves the right to revise this document. Competitors and any other affected individuals will be notified of any changes to the language contained in this document. Revised 03/19/2026.

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## **Purpose**

The Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet is an extemporaneous competitive speaking event for pork industry enthusiasts aged 18-22. Through preparatory research, creative problem solving, collaborative discussion, and drafting mock motions, competitors will dive deep into current pork industry issues and gain an understanding of the National Pork Producer Council (NPPC) producer-led policy development process.

## **Eligibility**

- Competitors must be between 18-22 years old at the time of the competition.
- Competitors must be enrolled in post-secondary education for the fall semester following the competition.
- Competitors must complete the registration application found at [www.worldpork.org/issues-meet/](http://www.worldpork.org/issues-meet/)
- A maximum of 24 competitors will be selected based on their registration applications.
- Current employees and interns of the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board are **not** eligible to compete.
- Past winners of the national Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet are not eligible to compete.

## **Schedule of Events & Fairgrounds Map**

### **Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Collegiate & Industry Networking Breakfast (Optional)  
*Location: Second Floor of Varied Industries Building*

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM: Competitor Orientation Meeting & Round 1 Room Assignments  
*Location: Meeting Room B of Varied Industries Building*

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM: Round 1 (All Competitors)  
*Location: Assigned Competition Rooms*

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM: Advancing Announcements & Round 2 Room Assignments  
*Location: Assigned Competition Rooms*

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM: Round 2  
*Location: Assigned Competition Rooms*

### **Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM: Final Four Round  
*Location: Anne & Bill Riley Stage*

3:45 PM – 4:15 PM: Sponsor Recognition & Remarks from NPPC  
*Location: Anne & Bill Riley Stage*

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM: Awards & Results  
*Location: Anne & Bill Riley Stage*

5:00 PM: Concert Begins (Optional)  
*Location: Anne & Bill Riley Stage*

***Schedule is subject to change. Participants will be notified of any updates prior to the competition.***



- ★ Security
- Information Booth
- ♿ Restroom
- 🚗 Taxi
- 💧 Water Station

## **Competition Format**

1. Competitors shall meet in a designated orientation room 30 minutes prior to the first round of competition to receive final information and the opportunity to ask questions. During this meeting, the Round 1 issue topic will be introduced, and competitors will receive their Round 1 competition room assignments. Competitors will draw for seating placement in their respective competition rooms. Attendance at the orientation meeting is mandatory, and absence will result in disqualification.
2. Following the orientation meeting, Room Escorts will escort competitors to their respective Round 1 competition rooms. Each room shall have a Room Escort and Room Moderator assigned by NPPC. The full list of their responsibilities is detailed on page 7.
3. Competitors may not take any prepared notes into the competition room, whether written or electronic. Phones and smart watches must remain concealed for the duration of the competition round. The use of prepared notes or devices may result in disqualification by the Room Moderator at the end of the round.
4. Upon entering the competition room, competitors shall sit in the audience seating until called forward by the Room Moderator during his or her opening remarks.
5. At the Room Moderator's direction, the competitors shall assume their seats which will be labelled with a name tent. Paper and a writing utensil will be provided to each competitor at their seat. Once seated, competitors may begin taking written notes. The Room Moderator will introduce the topic to be discussed, introduce the competitors, and re-introduce the topic. Competitors that are not present during introductions will be disqualified.
6. Next, the Room Moderator will invite the competitors to stand up, one-at-a-time, in voluntary order, to present a 30-second opening statement to the audience. The Room Escort, who shall also serve as the official timekeeper, will raise a red card when 30 seconds have elapsed, as a signal to the competitor to conclude their opening remarks and resume their seat. Competitors should strive to deliver their complete thoughts within the 30-second allotment.
7. Once all competitors have delivered their opening remarks, the Room Moderator will open the floor for discussion. Competitors will then have 20 minutes to discuss the provided topic. Any competitor may initiate the discussion, and competitors may speak in any order while remaining respectful of other competitors. The discussion should be directed at fellow competitors, not the audience.
8. The Room Escort will indicate when 5 minutes of the discussion period remain by raising a yellow card.
9. The Room Escort will indicate when the 20-minute discussion period has elapsed by raising a red card. The Room Moderator will call "time" and initiate a three-minute quiet period for competitors to draft a motion and prepare their one-minute closing remarks. Motions must be written on the provided template document at each seat. Competitors may begin drafting their motion at any point during the discussion but must have it completed by the end of the three-minute quiet time. More information about motion formatting can be found on page 6.
10. After three minutes have elapsed, the Room Escort will raise a red card and the Room Moderator will call "time", signaling to competitors to stop writing. No writing may take place after this announcement. The Room Moderator will then invite competitors to stand, in voluntary order, to provide one-minute closing remarks directed to the audience. The Room Escort will raise a red card when one minute has elapsed for each competitor.
11. Once all competitors have stated their closing remarks, the Room Escort will collect the motion cards. The Room Moderator will ask the judges to exit the room with the Room Escort to a separate scoring area. Judges may not confer with each other until final scoresheets have been collected.
12. After the judges have departed the room, the Room Moderator will ask the competitors to provide a brief personal introduction to the audience. These introductions are not judged and do not count towards a competitor's score. After Round 1 introductions, the Room Moderator will announce the question for

Round 2. (The question for the Final Four round will be announced in conjunction with the Final Four competitor announcement).

13. If there are more than 24 competitors, the names of those competitors advancing to Round 2 will be announced in the orientation room 15 minutes prior to the start of Round 2. If there are 24 or fewer competitors, then all competitors will advance to Round 2. In this case, both Round 1 and Round 2 rankings will be used to determine the Final Four. At the end of Round 2, the moderator will announce the time and location of the Final Four announcement, where the four individuals advancing to the Final Four Round will be named.

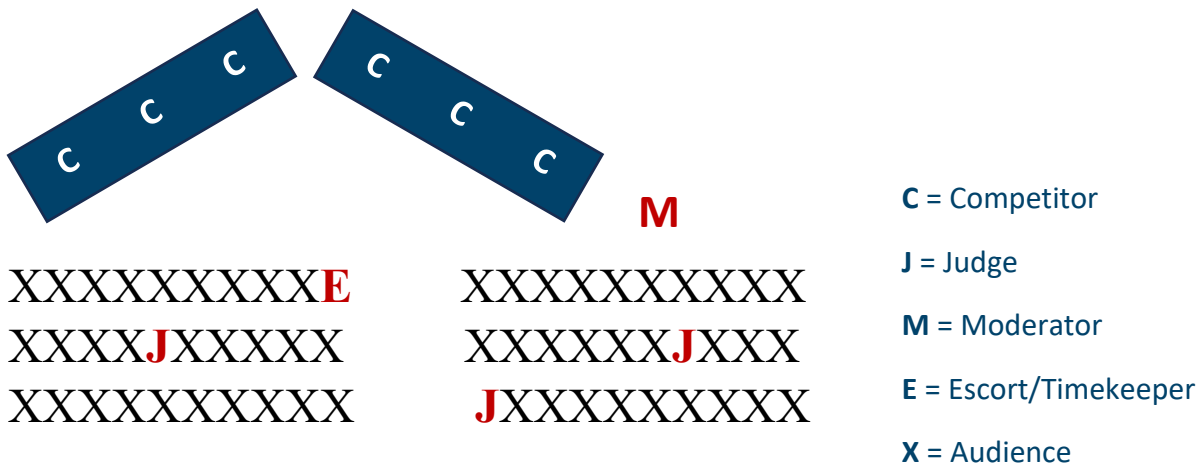
## Competition Structure

### Orientations

- Competitor Orientation
  - Competitor Orientation will occur 30 minutes before Round 1.
  - Attendance is mandatory. Competitors that are not present at the start of the orientation will be disqualified.
  - Competitors will receive their Round 1 room assignments.
  - Competitors will draw numbers for seating placement in their respective rooms.
  - The Round 1 issue topic will be introduced for the first time and re-stated at the start of Round 1.
  - Competitors will have the opportunity to ask any technical questions.
- Judge Orientation
  - Day-of Judge Orientation will occur 30 minutes before Round 1 in a separate room.
  - Attendance is required.
  - A final review of judge responsibilities will be provided.
  - Judges will receive their Round 1 room assignments.
  - Judging materials will be distributed.
  - Judges will have the opportunity to ask questions.

### Competition Room Set-up

The competition room shall be set up with two tables facing the audience and angled towards each other. Half of the competitors will be seated at each table. A blank piece of scratch paper, motion card, writing utensil, and name tent will be placed on the table at each seat. Competitors will randomly draw numbers for their seating assignment prior to the start of each round. Name tents should clearly display the competitors' names on both sides, ensuring visibility to both the competitors and the audience. The Room Moderator and Room Escort should be seated in the front of the room as depicted below, and judges should disperse evenly throughout the audience.



## Opening and Closing Statements

Opening Statements: Competitors will have 30 seconds each to present opening statements in voluntary order before the open discussion begins. Opening statements are an opportunity for competitors to introduce their initial thoughts, ideas, and solutions for the issue that they will elaborate upon during open discussion. Competitors should synthesize, from their perspective, the relevance of the issue and cast their vision to guide conversation.

Closing Statements: Competitors will have one minute each to present their closing statements after the open discussion period has closed and the three minutes of quiet time has elapsed. Closing statements are an opportunity for competitors to summarize the discussion, reiterate their main points, and discuss what they will do with the knowledge gained. Competitors do not need to read their motion during the closing statement, but they may refer to the solution they wrote.

## Draft Mock Motions

Judges will score competitors on their ability to translate their issue solutions into a mock motion, written as a public policy directive to NPPC. For each round, competitors will receive a motion card at their seat. Please refer to the example motion card on page 13. Motions may be drafted at any time during the discussion period; however, competitors will receive three minutes of quiet time following the discussion period to complete their motion card and organize their one-minute closing statement.

Draft motions should be actionable, creative, refer to discussed points, and may focus on all or a specific component of the issue. Draft motions should also use the SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely). According to parliamentary procedure, properly formatted motions should start with the words “I move that.”

Competitors are encouraged to research the provided issue prompts, brainstorm solutions, and consider mock motion language prior to the contest to assist with time management.

### Example:

**Issue Prompt:** As a grassroots advocacy organization, NPPC relies on investor participation. How can NPPC better engage producers and allied industry stakeholders at the grassroots level, increase participation in the Strategic Investment Program, and motivate actionable involvement in producer leadership and other NPPC sponsored activities?

**Draft Motion:** I move that NPPC expeditiously develop programming and collaborate with state pork associations to host monthly virtual and in-person Call-to-Action trainings for targeted investors to educate on the importance of advocacy.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Room Moderators**

- Read and understand the Issues Meet Manual.
- Attend the Competitor Orientation meeting to receive materials and room assignments.
- Ensure that competitors understand the timing procedures.
- Sit in the front of the room, to the side of the competitor tables, and facing the audience.
- During the competition rounds:
  1. Read the provided opening remarks, invite the competitors forward, state the issue prompt, introduce the competitors, and restate the issue prompt.
  2. Indicate competitors to stand up, one-at-a-time, in voluntary order, to provide a 30 second opening remark to the audience.
  3. Pay attention to the Room Escort during each competitor's opening remarks and state "time has been called" when the red card is raised.
  4. Once all competitors have provided opening remarks, open the floor for discussion.
  5. Watch for the Room Escort to raise the red card near the end of the 20 minute open discussion period, and state "time has been called" when it is raised.
  6. Announce the beginning of a three-minute quiet time for competitors to draft a motion and organize their thoughts for one-minute closing remarks.
  7. Watch for the Room Escort to raise the red card, state "time has been called," and ensure that all writing has stopped.
  8. Invite competitors to stand, in voluntary order, to provide one-minute closing remarks directed at the audience.
  9. Pay attention to the Room Escort during each competitor's closing remarks and state "time has been called" when the red card is raised.
  10. Once all competitors have delivered their closing remarks, thank the judges and ask them to exit the room with a Room Escort to a separate scoring area.
  11. Thank the competitors and ask them to provide a brief personal introduction to the audience.
  12. Announce the time, locations, and issue prompt for the next round.

## Judges

- Read and understand the Issues Meet Manual, specifically, the scoresheet.
- Read and understand the issue prompts.
- Attend the virtual Judge Orientation call to be scheduled before the event.
- Attend the Judge Orientation meeting to receive materials and room assignments.
- After the Judge Orientation meeting, go to your assigned competition room.
- During the competition rounds:
  - Do not sit next to another judge.
  - Remain consistent and unbiased in your scoring method.
  - Take notes on each competitor and provide feedback in the designated area on the scoresheet.
  - Score competitors for each criterion on the scoresheet.
  - Remain seated until the Room Moderator directs you to exit the room with the Room Escort.
- During the tabulation period:
  - Review and score all the motion cards.
  - Total scores in the appropriate location on the scoresheet.
  - Rank the competitors based on your scores. Break ties on your scoresheet if necessary.
  - Ensure that your scorecard is complete and signed.
  - Submit scorecards to the Room Escort.
  - Do not confer with any judges until all scorecards are submitted.

## Room Escorts

- Read and understand the Issues Meet Manual.
- Attend the Competitor Orientation meeting to receive materials and room assignments.
- Facilitate the drawing of seat placement for your assigned room at the end of the Competitor Orientation meeting and ensure that name tents are placed accordingly.
- Escort your room's competitors to the assigned room after the Orientation Meeting. Instruct them to sit in the audience seating area.
- Sit towards the center of the front row of the audience seating.
- During the competition rounds:
  - Serve as the official timekeeper
  - Time each competitor's opening remarks and raise a red card when 30 seconds have elapsed.
  - After the Room Moderator opens the floor for discussion, start a 20 minute timer.
  - Indicate when 5 minutes of the discussion period remain by raising a yellow card.
  - Indicate when the 20-minute discussion time has elapsed by raising a red card.
  - When the Room Moderator announces a three minute quiet period for motion drafting and organizing closing remarks, start a three-minute timer.
  - Indicate when the three minutes have elapsed by raising a red card.
  - Time each competitor's closing remarks and raise a red card when one minute has elapsed.
  - Collect the motion cards at the end of the one-minute closing remarks.
  - Escort the judges to the tabulation area when directed by the Room Moderator.
- During the tabulation period:
  - Ensure that all judges receive the opportunity to read and score each motion card.
  - Ensure that the judges do not conspire on scoring, and answer questions as necessary.
  - Assist with tiebreakers.
  - Collect scoresheets and ensure that they are filled out completely.
  - Submit scoresheets to the event lead in the designated submission area.

## **Score Tabulation**

This is not a team event. Competitors are scored on their individual performance. Please see the scoresheet on page 12 for scoring categories.

A Room Escort will supervise the tabulation of scores, and judges will not be permitted to confer before scoresheets have been collected by the Room Escort. Judges will assign and calculate their scores for the criteria as indicated on the scoresheet. Judges will then rank the competitors according to each competitor's total score. Tied rankings on an individual judge's scoresheet will be broken by that judge.

The Escort will collect the completed scoresheets and enter each judge's ranking of competitors onto the Ranking Tabulation Sheet. The values of each judge's ranking of a competitor will be added together to determine the final cumulative ranking. Please reference the Ranking Tabulation Sheet example.

Ties in the final ranking will be broken first by the rankings for *Logical and Creative Solutions*, then by *Research and Analysis of Issue*, and lastly by *Conduct and Attitude*. If a tie still exists, total points from the judges' scoresheets will be used.

Judges should stay with the Room Escort until all ties have been resolved and the final rankings are completed.

## **Round Advancement**

**Round 1:** All competitors will compete in Round 1.

**Round 2:** There will be up to 4 rooms in Round 2. If there are 24 or fewer competitors, then all competitors will compete in Round 2. If there are 25 or more competitors, then the top 4 ranked competitors from each room in Round 1 will advance to Round 2. The top 4 will be determined by the final ranking in each room.

# Competitors	# Round 1 Rms.	# Advancing/Rm.	Total # Advancing	# Round 2 Rms.
12	3	4	12	2
13	3	5	13	3
14	3	5	14	3
15	3	5	15	3
16	3	6	16	3
17	3	6	17	3
18	3	6	18	3
19	4	6	19	4
20	4	6	20	4
21	4	6	21	4
22	4	6	22	4
23	4	6	23	4
24	4	6	24	4
25	5	4	20	4
26	5	4	20	4
27	5	4	20	4
28	5	4	20	4
29	5	4	20	4
30	5	4	20	4

**Final Four Round:** If there are 24 or fewer competitors, then both Round 1 and Round 2 rankings will be used to determine the Final Four. If there are more than 24 competitors, then the first ranked competitor from each of the four rooms in Round 2 will advance to the Final Four Round.

## **Prizes**

- First Place:** \$10,000 Scholarship and an all-expenses paid trip to NPPC's Legislative Action Conference held September 16-17, 2026, in Washington, D.C.
- Second Place:** \$7,500 Scholarship
- Third Place:** \$5,000 Scholarship
- Fourth Place:** \$2,500 Scholarship

# Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet Scoresheet



Competitors' Names (Left Table)			The column below lists the scoring categories and the total points available to <i>each</i> competitor per category. Please write the full names of the competitors according to their seating order. Assign scores in the large boxes and rankings of those scores (1-6) in the small boxes. Do not allow ties.	Competitors' Names (Right Table)		
			<b>OPENING STATEMENT: 10 points</b> Defines the issue; states causes and relevance of the issue; introduces perspective and solutions to spur discussion; stays within time limit.			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<b>LOGICAL AND ORIGINAL SOLUTIONS: 25 points</b> Offers specific and actionable solutions; clearly defines how NPPC can assist with implementation; seeks input on ideas; has a well-defined plan.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<b>RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF ISSUE: 20 points</b> Demonstrates thorough research; identifies and analyzes the causes; states accurate facts; asks insightful questions to competitors; keeps the discussion on topic; awareness of NPPC policy positions.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<b>CONDUCT AND ATTITUDE: 15 points</b> Actively listens and respectfully responds to other ideas; graciously navigates disagreement; inquisitive about other points of view; leads by inviting others into the conversation; does not monopolize conversation.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
			<b>DELIVERY: 10 points</b> Confident; appropriate volume and tone; animated gestures; eye-contact; sits and stands with poise; enunciation; completes thoughts.			
			<b>CLOSING STATEMENT: 10 points</b> Summarizes the discussion; reiterates the competitor's main points; casts a vision for next steps; strong and inspiring closing.			
			<b>DRAFT MOTION: 10 points</b> Begins with the words "I move that..."; directed at NPPC; clearly defines at least one actionable solution from the discussion; uses the SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely).			
			<b>TOTAL:</b> Total score assigned by judge. <b>100 points possible.</b>			
			<b>RANK:</b> Rank the competitors based on total score with 1 being the highest and 6 being the lowest.			

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Round #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet Draft Motion Card



Competitor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write your motion legibly on the lines below:

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# Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet Draft Motion Card



Competitor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write your motion legibly on the lines below:

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# Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet Ranking Tabulation Sheet

Instructions: Please complete the entire sheet even if no ties exist. If there is a tie in Total Rank, progress through the tiebreakers in order until the tie is broken. Tiebreaker rankings may not preempt the Total Rank.

Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Round #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Total Rank from Scoresheet

Competitors (In seat order)						
Judge 1						
Judge 2						
Judge 3						
Total						
Final Rank						

## Logical and Original Solutions Rank from Scoresheet (Tiebreaker 1)

Competitors (In seat order)						
Judge 1						
Judge 2						
Judge 3						
Total						
Final Rank						

## Research and Analysis of Issue Rank from Scoresheet (Tiebreaker 2)

Competitors (In seat order)						
Judge 1						
Judge 2						
Judge 3						
Total						
Final Rank						

## Conduct and Attitude Rank from Scoresheet (Tiebreaker 3)

Competitors (In seat order)						
Judge 1						
Judge 2						
Judge 3						
Total						
Final Rank						

# Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet Ranking Tabulation Sheet (Example)

Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Round #: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Please complete the entire sheet even if no ties exist. If there is a tie in Total Rank, progress through the tiebreakers in order until the tie is broken. Tiebreaker rankings may not preempt the Total Rank.

## Total Rank from Scoresheet

Competitors (In seat order)	Chris P. Bacon	Miss Piggy	Wilbur Hambone	Porky Pig	Saul T. Bacon	Pig Paul
Judge 1	4	3	2	6	5	1
Judge 2	4	5	1	3	6	2
Judge 3	2	2	3	4	6	1
Total	10	10	6	13	17	4
Final Rank	Tie	Tie	2	5	6	1

## Logical and Original Solutions Rank from Scoresheet (Tiebreaker 1)

Competitors (In seat order)	Chris P. Bacon	Miss Piggy	Wilbur Hambone	Porky Pig	Saul T. Bacon	Pig Paul
Judge 1	4	3	2	6	5	1
Judge 2	4	5	1	3	6	2
Judge 3	2	2	3	4	6	1
Total	10	10	6	13	17	4
Final Rank	Tie	Tie	2	5	6	1

## Research and Analysis of Issue Rank from Scoresheet (Tiebreaker 2)

Competitors (In seat order)	Chris P. Bacon	Miss Piggy	Wilbur Hambone	Porky Pig	Saul T. Bacon	Pig Paul
Judge 1	2	5	3	6	4	1
Judge 2	4	3	1	5	6	2
Judge 3	5	3	2	4	6	1
Total	11	11	6	15	16	4
Final Rank	Tie	Tie	2	5	6	1

## Conduct and Attitude Rank from Scoresheet (Tiebreaker 3)

Competitors (In seat order)	Chris P. Bacon	Miss Piggy	Wilbur Hambone	Porky Pig	Saul T. Bacon	Pig Paul
Judge 1	5	2	3	6	4	1
Judge 2	4	3	1	5	6	2
Judge 3	5	3	2	4	6	1
Total	14	8	6	15	16	4
Final Rank	4	3	2	5	6	1