

2022 Ag Day Discussion Topic:

Student voice and student perspective

How are we helping decision makers have a student voice at the table when talking about the current needs and the future of the agricultural industry?

No matter the topic you want to discuss with federal, state, or local leaders consider how your perspective and stories can be an asset to the conversation.

Workforce Development

Industry leaders alongside policy makers at the state and federal levels are tasked with working to solve current and future workforce development needs. While estimated numbers vary, data is clear that the agricultural industry needs more workers. *How can you as a student leader, elevate the conversation and add value based upon your experiences with friends your age?*

Aging producers

The average of the American farmer continues to rise. According to 2017 National Ag Statistics Service Data (NASS), the average age was 57.5, up 1.2 years from 2012 data. *If you consider heading into production, where would you naturally look for assistance and what do you perceive as a need?*

Broadband

Though the Federal Legislature has infused \$65B into broadband connectivity, states and local governments need to determine how they will invest and use those funds. Further, essential broadband-based programs will need reauthorized in the upcoming Farm Bill. *Considering your needs and experiences as a young person, how would you find information on broadband programs that would lead to their use by your generation?*

Farm Bill

Reauthorized nearly every 5 years (and set for another version in 2023), the Farm Bill is a stalwart in agriculture policy. While it includes key commodity programs and language around nutrition assistance, the Farm Bill touches nearly every commodity and facet of American agriculture, including Young and Beginning Farmer programs and a position at USDA which supports youth organizations. *As federal lawmakers anticipate the needs for producers and consumers over the next five years, what insight could you provide as a young leader?*

Your key to success: Offer to be a resource

As Ag Day participants and future leaders, we're here to be supportive of policy makers and to be a resource for them on behalf of ourselves and our collective organizations. Advancing our industry doesn't stop after our meetings on March 22nd. *How can your experiences and life stories change the narrative and perspectives in a positive way?*

