

2026-2027 KANSAS FFA DISCUSSION MEET QUESTIONS

FFA Topic

Since its founding in 1928, the National FFA Organization has empowered students to achieve premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. As agriculture has evolved to include emerging industries, technologies and career pathways, FFA membership has grown to encompass students from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests.

As student interests diversify, how can FFA chapters remain relevant and engaging to both traditional agricultural students and non-traditional members?

Resource Links:

- National FFA Organization: <https://www.ffa.org/belonging-engagement/>
- Kansas FFA Association: www.ksffa.org

Agriculture Education Topic

An agriculturally literate person is someone who understands and can communicate the source and value agriculture has on our quality of life. Agricultural education plays a vital role in developing this understanding by helping students connect to agriculture. In Kansas, opportunities for agricultural education are currently available to many high school students and, increasingly, at the middle school level.

How can agricultural education be expanded into elementary classrooms to improve agricultural literacy at a younger age?

Resource Links:

- National Agriculture in the Classroom: <https://agclassroom.org/mission/literacy/>
- Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom: <https://ksagclassroom.org/>

Crops Topic

Farmers are increasingly utilizing precision agriculture and artificial intelligence to monitor crops, soil, weather and equipment in real time. New technologies often come with multiple barriers of entry such as cost, infrastructure and operator ability.

Artificial intelligence and precision agriculture tools are becoming more common on farms. Are these technologies practical for operations of all sizes?

Resource Links:

- USDA Agricultural Research Service: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/oc/utm/benefits-and-evolution-of-precision-agriculture/>
- American Farm Bureau: <https://www.fb.org/intel/markets/the-evolution-of-precision-agriculture-and-policy-implications>

Natural Resources Topic

Across Kansas, agricultural producers rely on a variety of water sources to support operations. Groundwater from the High Plains aquifer system — including the Ogallala Aquifer — along with rivers, reservoirs and other surface water sources, plays a critical role in sustaining agricultural productivity. As water supplies face increasing pressure, communities and producers are making difficult decisions about resource management to ensure a reliable future for agriculture and rural communities.

Water conservation continues to be a major issue in Kansas. What practices and technologies should agriculture prioritize to preserve water resources for future generations?

Resource Links:

- Kansas Water Office: <https://www.kwo.ks.gov/>
- Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment: <https://www.kcare.k-state.edu/water/>

Livestock Topic

Alternative protein products currently account for only about 2 percent of the global protein market, underscoring the continued dominance of conventional meat. While meat remains the primary protein choice for most consumers, companies across the food industry are expanding their portfolios to explore and develop products such as plant-based, synthetic meat alternatives.

Alternative protein products continue entering the market. How should the livestock industry respond to changing consumer preferences?

Resource Links:

- National Institute of Health: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK588012/>
- Drovers (Farm Journal): <https://www.drovers.com/news/beef-production/communicating-about-science-raising-livestock-increasingly-important>