



National FFA Organization  
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[www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

## Students Lead out Loud with Agricultural Issues

By Carla Saunders

Thursday afternoon on the second floor of the Indianapolis Convention Center, the first round of the Agricultural Issues forum commenced. Five FFA Chapters from around the nation presented their community issues to a room full of spectators and four judges.

The Agricultural Issues forum is a career development events (CDE) sponsored by Elanco. CDEs help students to understand, teach, and improve agriculture on a local, state, national, and global level.

During the forum, each team is allotted 15 minutes to present an agriculture-related topic that is currently affecting their hometown such as pollution, energy, food safety, etc. The presentation has five main parts: an overview of the problem, a possible solution to the problem, pros to the proposed solution, cons to the proposed solution, a summarization of the entire issue. Concluding the presentation, each team answers questions from the judges.

This forum requires lots of discipline and practice. Students from Madisonville, Texas practice at 7:00 a.m. each morning and up to three times a day. However, the purpose of the forum is to not only to develop FFA members with public speaking, presentation, and research skills, but to also raise awareness in the local communities of the issues facing agriculture and some proposed solutions to consider. The ultimate goal is to make individuals more active in their communities and hold elected officials accountable for their decisions.



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The students participating in this forum are truly “Leading Out Loud.” The Agricultural Issues Forum winners will be announced at 1:30p.m. on Saturday, October 24, during the ninth general session at Conseco Fieldhouse. Results will also be posted on [www.ffa.org/convention](http://www.ffa.org/convention).