
2008 Extemporaneous Speech Topics

- Recently, Topps Meat Company was forced to close its doors forever because of a 21 million pound frozen beef patty recall. E.coli was to blame. How do we keep this from happening again, and again?
- How has the sharp decline in the U.S. dollar affected American agriculture?
- Should Congress lower crop subsidies in face of complaints before the World Trade Organization?
- How would you combat the perception that farmers are not interested in environmental stewardship — only in making a profit?
- Should biotechnology be used to develop better snack foods, such as potatoes that do not absorb oil as they fry?
- How is global warming, and climate change in general, affecting the industry of agriculture?
- Some people believe hogs, cattle, chickens, and other animals feel pain, grief, and sadness when they are mistreated or see another animal mistreated. Should these concerns be taken seriously?
- Have international trade agreements failed to live up to the promise of delivering a “good deal” for U.S. farmers and ranchers?
- Are we currently doing better or worse in opening foreign markets to U.S. agriculture products?
- Does ethanol take more energy to produce than it yields?
- Are there opportunities available for farmers to make a positive impact on the obesity epidemic in America?
- Does organic food have less impact on the environment than traditional food production?
- What are some benefits of rooftop gardens?
- Can urban agriculture play a role in securing a safe and abundant food supply for our nation?
- GPS is a key technology used in precision agriculture. How are farmers using it?
- Would you feel comfortable showing the inside of a building that houses hogs or chickens to a young person who lives in a city or town?
- The National FFA Organization recently signed a partnership with USDA to assist with encouraging livestock producers to register their premise. Did FFA make a good move, or a bad one?
- Should farmers do more to develop better relationships with environmentalists and other members of the activist community?
- What are the biggest myths urban consumers have about farmers and ranchers?

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- If someone your age from the big city had you as their tour guide for one day in a rural Oklahoma setting, what would you show them?
- Do homeowners or farmers use the greatest concentration of chemical pesticides per acre?
- Should the Cuban trade embargo be lifted?
- As an industry, is agriculture essential to U.S. homeland security? Why or why not?
- Is the so-called slow food movement that promotes the use of locally raised organic produce, meat, and eggs here to stay, or is it a passing fad?
- As farmland continues to be lost to development, will urban agriculture become more or less important?