***Lesson: Christmas Tree Debate***

**Directions:** Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (http://www.agmrc.org) and find the link to Forestry, then Christmas Trees. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below.

Debate Topic: Live Christmas Trees vs. Artificial Christmas Trees

1. I am an advocate for *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

The following are content issues that should be addressed during the debate (These guidelines were adapted from the National FFA Agricultural Issues Debate Format).

1. *What makes this an important issue?*
2. *Who is affected by the issue?*
3. *What are the marketing/ consumer trends associated with these products?*
4. *What are the risks?*
5. *What are the benefits?*
6. *Is there a strong disagreement as to how the issue should be solved?*

Debate Format: Also adapted from the National FFA Agricultural Issues Debate Format.

1. *Opening statements for both sides = 3 minutes each*
2. *Arguments for both sides = 3 minutes each*
3. *Rebuttal conference = 1 minute*
4. *Rebuttals = 2 minutes each*
5. *Closing statements for both sides = 3 minutes each*

Opening Statement: Students are to synthesize main arguments into an introductory statement. Limited supportive evidence is given here. Students simply cite reasons why the statement is true.

Statement

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Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

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Topic Presenters: Students will present the main arguments for the team. This is where students go into detail about their previously stated reasons.

Reason Details 1

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Reason Details 2

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Reason Details 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rebuttal Presenters: Students will formulate answers to the arguments presented from the opposing side. The students will need to cite specific information to disprove arguments. This can take place multiple times until all arguments are exhausted. There will be a rebuttal conference between each round to discuss further arguments.

Round 1:

Rebuttal to Argument 1

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Rebuttal to Argument 2

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Rebuttal to Argument 3

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**Rebuttal conference**

Round 2:

Rebuttal to Argument 1

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Rebuttal to Argument 2

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Rebuttal to Argument 3

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**Rebuttal Conference**

Round 3:

Rebuttal to Argument 1

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Rebuttal to Argument 2

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Rebuttal to Argument 3

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**Rebuttal Conference**

Round 4:

Rebuttal to Argument 1

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Rebuttal to Argument 2

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Rebuttal to Argument 3

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Closing Statement: Students will present closing arguments for their team. They should reiterate the main ideas presented during their debate.

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