

Agricultural Public Speaking Contest



CONTEST DATE: Saturday, September 12, 2020

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Contest Registration Due: Saturday, August 1, 2020

Contest Registration Email: nmyouth@nmsu.edu

**Contest Start Time, Location, and full prize list announcement:
September 1, 2020**

Contest Coordinator: Dr. Frannie Miller, franniem@nmsu.edu, (575) 646-1162
New Mexico State University, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business

This contest is subject to the New Mexico State Fair General Rules and Regulations and to the Special Rules of this section. Where Special Rules conflict with other rules, Special Rules prevail.

Special Rules for Agricultural Public Speaking Contest

1. **Entry Fee:** An entry fee of \$20 made payable to New Mexico State Fair will be charged.
2. Entries **MUST** be submitted online via email to nmyouth@nmsu.edu prior to 11:59 pm, August 1, 2020.
3. **Eligibility:** This contest is open to New Mexico students, ages 8 (in addition to being in 3rd grade) to 18 years of age as of January 1, 2020 and are enrolled in, and attending, public or private elementary or secondary schools in New Mexico (including home school). Each contestant must be a member of 4-H, FFA, or meet all other NMSF Junior Show Rules and Requirements. A one-time exception to 4H/FFA enrollment will be permitted. Contestants must be passing all subjects for the semester or grading period immediately preceding the contest, as certified by the school official on the entry form.
4. **Age divisions** are as follows: **Junior Division:** participants must be 8 years of age (in addition to being in the 3rd grade) and not over 13 years of age as of January 1, 2020. **Senior Division:** participants must be 14 to 18 years of age as of January 1, 2020.
5. **Entry Limitation:** Contestants are limited to one (1) individual entry. An entry must be the result of a student's own effort and ability. Team entries are **NOT** allowed. There is no limit to the number of entries a chapter or club may submit.
6. **Judging Criteria:** Judging is similar to the criteria set forth in the National FFA Association for Prepared Public Speaking.
7. **Documentation:** Each contestant must submit the following items in advance to be eligible for competition:
 - i. Abstract
 1. The abstract will consist of 200-300 words.
 - ii. List of References in APA format
 1. A minimum of five references must be used and cited.
 - iii. Statement of originality

1. This form must be signed by the contestant, parent/legal guardian, and AST/CEA (or teacher) and included within the submitted file.
- a. Documentation should be saved as a pdf file. **Students failing to submit the required documentation by the deadline of August 1, 2020 are ineligible to compete.** Documents submitted may be checked for originality and any incidence of plagiarism using Turnitin™ software. Any submission with an alert of 30% similarity will be evaluated and may be disqualified.

If the contestant does not follow the guidelines outlined above, point deductions will be taken at the discretion of the Superintendent, Show Management, and Judges.

8. **Contest Format:** The event will be conducted using the following format:
 - a. **Rounds:** A preliminary round and a final round will be held.
 - b. Preliminary judging will be done by groups. Participants will be assigned into a judging group. Contestants **MUST** compete in their assigned groups. Changes may only be approved by the Contest Superintendents or Show Management. The top scoring speeches in each group will advance to the final round, so that the final round includes ten finalists. The finalists in the Junior and Senior divisions will compete for overall division winner and placings within their respective divisions.
 - c. Contestants will randomly draw to determine the speaking order for the Final Round of judging on the second day. Final Round contestants will be evaluated and ranked by judges without regard to topic area
 - d. **Dress Attire:** Contestants should wear presentable attire. Business attire or Official 4-H, FFA, attire is recommended.
 - e. **Time:** Each speech shall be a minimum of six (6) minutes in length and a maximum of eight (8) minutes. Time point deductions will apply as follows:
 - i. Under six minutes - one point per ten seconds
 - ii. Over eight minutes - one point per ten seconds
 - iii. Junior contestants will be given a discrete, two-minute warning by the time keeper prior to the eight-minute deadline.
 - f. **Question/Answer Period:** A three-minute question and answer period will follow each speech. At the end of three minutes, time will be called and all questioning will end. If time is called during the student's answer to the last question, the contestant may complete his or her answer.
 - g. **Props:** The use of pets, signs, electronics, objects, or props of any kind are prohibited. A violation of this rule will result in contestant disqualification.
9. **Presentation Schedule Conflict:** Students with conflicts due to participation in other NMSF events held on the same day of the contest will need to notify the Contest Coordinator during project set-up to arrange a presentation time. Once the contest begins, it is the responsibility of each contestant to notify the Contest Coordinator should a conflict arise with their assigned presentation time.
10. **Presentation Area:** The contest location will be announced by September 1, 2020. If necessary to move the contest, participants will be notified using the cell phone on the contestant entry form or through a designated communication app.

11. Public Viewing:

- a. Only contest officials, judges, and participants are allowed in the presentation area during the preliminary round of public speaking judging.
- b. During the final round judging, the general public will be allowed in the judging area and seated in a designated location. The public is NOT allowed to ask questions or comment during the final judging round.
- c. After judging, a public reception and awards ceremony will occur. Participants should be available to answer questions about their speech topic from interested members of the public.

12. Awards:

- a. The award ceremony will follow the judging. Winners are required to be present to receive awards. Awards will not be mailed. Alternative arrangements can be made with approval from the contest superintendant.
- b. The following prizes will be awarded in both the Junior and Senior Divisions:

<i>Place</i>	<i>Award</i>
1st Place	Cash prize; NMSU ACES Scholarship; Felt Banner
2nd Place	Cash prize; NMSU ACES Scholarship; Felt Banner

*Prize amounts will be determined by donations.

- c. **Tie Breaker:** In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined based on the number of low ranks. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken on rankings of the question responses.
- d. Winners of the event are requested to attend the livestock sale for recognition and to help promote the contest in future years.

13. Topic areas: Contestants will NOT be judged by topic (i.e., Animal Science). The top contestants from each assigned group will advance to the final round. However, students do need to select a topic. Final Round contestants will be evaluated and ranked by judges without regard to topic area.

- a. **Speech Topic Areas:** Each contestant will enter their speech in one of the topic areas listed below. The final determination of the contestant's speech topic area will be at the discretion of the Superintendent and Show Management.

Topic Areas:

- **New Mexico Agricultural Heritage:** Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as New Mexico Agricultural history, culture or our unique New Mexico history and heritage.
- **Agri-science Technology:** Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, new agri-technology applications, global positioning and other satellite technology, computer applications, or other agricultural innovations.
- **Agricultural Advocacy/Leadership or Communication:** A subject that either advocates for agriculture, discusses methods of advocacy or how to communicate agricultural information to the public, or leadership in agriculture.
- **Agribusiness or Agrimarketing:** Any current and future subject that deals with topics such as cooperatives, sales, service, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, hedging, advertising, etc.
- **Plant or Animal Science:** Any current or future subject that deals with any aspect(s) of livestock or specialty animal industries, animal science issues, New Mexico crops, agronomic sciences, or horticulture.

- **Rural Economic Development:** Any current or future subject that deals growing the rural economy of New Mexico or improving the livelihood of rural people and rural communities.
- **Environment and Natural Resources:** Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as soil, water, air, water quality, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy, or other environmental issues.
- **Agricultural Policy:** Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as domestic farm issues or policies, legal issues, international trade, international competition, agricultural aid, or global food and fiber needs.

14. Eligibility of Previous Winners: Previous First (1st) Place winners in the Junior and Senior Divisions must select a new speech topic to remain eligible to enter the contest in subsequent year(s).

15. Resources: Participants are encouraged to use their Extension Agents, FFA Teachers, agricultural and natural resources professionals and New Mexico State University faculty as resources. All work and research must be the student's own, but they are encouraged to network and learn from people working in the topic area related to their speech.

<https://www.ffa.org/participate/prepared-public-speaking/>