Virginia FFA/4-H: Agriscience Research Poster

State Fair of Virginia

2026 Contest Letter

State Fair Address: Meadow Event Park 13111 Dawn Blvd Doswell, VA 23047 Caroline County	**Contest Registration and Tickets:** Participants must have a $6 Student Competition Ticket to enter the Fairgrounds unless they are already at the Fair for another competition. Agricultural Education instructors are responsible for ordering tickets: https://www.vaffa.org/state-fair-of-virginia	**Event Location:** Farm Credit Pavilion	**Date:** September 28, 2026 **Times:** *Poster Drop Off:* 10:00 AM *Awards:* Following the Ag/Hort Demo Event
Contest Superintendents: Dr. Hannah Scherer Dr. Brett Milliken	**Entry Deadline:** September 16, 2026 by 5:00 PM.	**Questions? *Contact us!*** *Virginia FFA Association* Andy Seibel - gseibel@vt.edu Sarah Jo Jones - shelms07@vt.edu 540-231-3823	

Purpose:

The Agriscience Research Poster Contest is an exciting opportunity for students interested in scientific principles and emerging technologies in the agricultural industry. The Agriscience Research Poster Contest gives students a chance to display agriscience projects that represent original scientific research (i.e., conducting an investigation that includes collecting scientific data to answer a question or test a hypothesis) in one of the following areas: Animal Systems, Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems, Food Products and Processing Systems, Plant Systems, Power, Structural and Technical Systems, or Social Systems.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. This contest is open to 4-H and FFA members in the state of Virginia. 4-H or FFA members who have won previous state or national contests and college students are not eligible to compete.
2. A team can be made up of one or two individuals. There will be a junior and senior division: Junior division will be students in grades 5-9 and Senior division will be students in grades 10-12. For a total of FIVE posters total per chapter/club (can be in any category).
3. The projects must fall into one of these categories:
    a. Animal Systems
    b. Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems
    c. Food Products and Processing Systems
    d. Plant Systems
    e. Power, Structural and Technical Systems
    f. Social Systems
4. Projects must represent original scientific research (i.e. not just reporting facts from existing resources). **Projects that do not involve conducting a scientific investigation are not eligible for awards.**
5. Display Requirements: Results of projects should be displayed on a standard sized poster board, tri-fold poster board, or a printed poster with foam board backing. Posters should include the name of the person(s) responsible for the work, the title of the work, and the school name. Photographs and text should be clear and legible.

Judging/Scoring Criteria:

- The Agriscience Research Poster Event will be scored based on the attached rubric.

Awards:

Individual Cash Awards (Seniors Only):

Place:	Award:
1st	$50
2nd	$40
3rd	$25
4th	$15
5th	$10

Ribbons (Junior and Senior):

1st-6th Place Teams - Rosette Ribbons
7th-8th Place Teams - Flat Ribbons
1st-6th Place Individuals - Rosette Ribbons

7th-8th Place Individuals - Flat Ribbons

State Fair Scholarship Program:
Contestants will be eligible to participate in the State Fair Scholarship Program. Please see the State Fair website, www.statefairva.org, for more information regarding the State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program and eligibility requirements for other available scholarships. The following scholarships will be awarded to the top three teams in the Junior and Senior contests. Scholarship is split if a team.

Senior Scholarships

Place	**Scholarship**
1st	$300
2nd	$200
3rd	$100

Junior Scholarships

Place	**Scholarship**
1st	$150
2nd	$100
3rd	$100

Event Sponsor:

Supplementary Materials:
- Rubric

4-H and FFA Agriscience Research Poster Contest at the State Fair of Virginia

Student Name(s) _____

Chapter/Club Name _____

Category _____

____/5 Title: Is the title concise and appropriate for the research completed?

____/15 Introduction/Purpose: Is it clear what the research problem is and why the student has chosen to pursue it?

____/15 Experimental Design/Methods: Does the project represent original scientific research (i.e., not just reporting facts from existing resources)? Has the problem been clearly stated and solved using appropriate methodology? Are data collection and statistical methods well defended and relevant to the question?

____/15 Results: Are the results easy to understand? Are the graphs and figures (if any) a clear depiction of the results?

____/15 Discussion/Conclusions: Do the conclusions follow logically from the results? Has the student explained the relevance of and future directions for this research?

____/15 Scientific Principles: Are the conclusions drawn accurate? Does the student have an understanding of the scientific principles used?

____/15 Visual Display: Is the poster visually appealing? Do the sections of the poster flow well or do they seem disjointed? Do the more important parts of the poster catch your attention, or do you need to search for things such as the research question and results?

____/5 Grammar/Syntax: Was the student mindful of spelling and sentence structure? If there are grammatical issues, do they affect the clarity of the sentence?

Total ____/100

Please provide any constructive feedback for the student(s) below: