Virginia FFA: Agriscience Demonstration

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:** *Contest Meeting:* 10:00 AM *Contest Begins:* 10:15 AM *Awards:* Following the 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:

This event allows participants to present an informative topic related to agriscience in a demonstrative way. Students present their project to a panel of judges and then receive questions.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. This contest will be open to FFA chapters across the state. Schools are invited to enter one or two demonstrations. If two demonstrations are entered from a chapter, each must present a different demonstration topic.

2. Demonstrations may be presented by either one individual contestant or a team of two contestants. Note that awards are presented to a ranked demonstration, not individual contestants. Chapters/Clubs can enter up to two teams per division.
3. Contestants must be active students in grades 6th-12th the school term preceding entry in the contest. There will be two divisions:
    a. Junior Division (Division I): Student in grades 6th-9th.
    b. Senior Division (Division II): Students in grades 10th-12th.
    c. If either member of a team is in or above the tenth-grade level, the team will be considered Division II.
4. No individual may present the same demonstration in successive years.
5. No individual may present the same presentation as presented in the horticulture demonstration contest.
6. Presentations must be of a demonstration nature (actually doing something), not simply an illustrated talk.
7. Demonstration topics may deal with agriculture within any of the following areas:
    a. Plant and Soil Science
    b. Animal Science
    c. Agricultural Marketing & Agricultural Business
    d. Natural Resources Management & Environmental Science
    e. Agricultural Engineering.
8. Fire, live animals, and operational engines may not be used during the demonstration.
9. Each demonstration is limited to 10 minutes. Following the demonstration, the judges (only) may ask questions of the contestant and only about the demonstration for up to 3 minutes.
10. Contestants must provide all equipment and materials required for their demonstrations.
11. The contest will be limited to the first 30 teams/individuals to register in each division.
12. Power availability can usually be accommodated, but not guaranteed. Presentations that do not require power are recommended.
13. Members utilizing sharp implements must travel to and from their contest table with the sharp sheathed. Members using needles or related tools must dispose of them in a proper sharps container. Members should feel comfortable in the safe handling of these items.

Judging/Scoring Criteria:

- The agriscience demonstration contest is judged using the attached rubric.

Awards:

Cash Awards for Junior and Senior (will be split if awarded to a team of two):

Place:	Award:
1st	$50
2nd	$40
3rd	$25
4th	$15
5th	$10
6th	$10

Ribbons for Junior and Senior:
1st-6th Place - Rosette 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 individuals:

1st Place (Senior) - $250
2nd Place (Senior) - $150
3rd Place (Senior) - $50
(scholarships are split if it is a team of two contestants)

Event Sponsor:

Supplementary Materials:
- Rubric

Ag Demonstration Rubric

Evaluation Criteria				**100 Possible Points**
Indicators	**Strong evidence skill is present (7-10 points)**	**Moderate evidence skill is present (4-6 points)**	**Strong evidence is NOT present (0-3 points)**	**Total Score**
Voice				**10 Points**
Quality	Strong, clear voice with appropriate volume for the room	Clear voice, not all words can be heard by audience	Often too quiet for audience to hear, unsure tone	
Articulation	Strong knowledge base, effectively expresses points	Good knowledge base, sufficiently expresses points	Poor knowledge base, difficulty expressing points	
Pronunciation	Efficiently explains directions with strong clarity	Moderately explains directions with average clarity	No ability to explain directions, leads to confusion	
Force	Has the power of presentation to engage audience	While accurate, speaker simply repeats facts	Loses audience's attention easily, lacks enthusiasm	
Stage Presence				**10 Points**
Personal Appearance	Dress is appropriate, has taken time in appearance	Dress is presentable, but not professional	Dress is not appropriate for demonstration	
Poise and Body Posture	Appropriate gestures, in control of presentation	Poised most of the time, some awkward motions	Sometimes loses composure, poor control of motions	
Confidence/Personality	Speaks with unwavering voice, let's personality shine	Confidence of material, but lacks personality	Very little confidence	
Ease Before Audience	Makes eye contact with audience, no nervous habits	Eye contact most of the time, occasional habits	No eye contact nervous tics, lots of hesitation	
Power of Expression				**10 Points**
Communicative Ability	Language conveys the purpose of the demonstration	Understandable most of the time, can be confusing	Lacks the ability to successfully describe the demo	
Directness	Clearly states the procedure, step by step description	Sometimes indirect procedure, purpose is relatively clear	Presentation lacks direction, and is hard to follow	
Fluency	Points flow together, uses transitional phrases	Has organization, lacks transition to keep demo smooth	Moving from point to point is choppy, audience is lost	

Emphasis	Uses voice, tone, and actions to highlight important points	Occasionally points out important steps and procedures	Uses no emphasis, presentation is monotone	
Sincerity	Shows passion, obviously has first-hand experience	Sometimes shows enthusiasm, gives good examples	No enthusiasm, shows no evidence of experience	
Conveyance of Thought and Meaning	Shows "real world" applicableness of the demonstration	Gives examples, does not always convey meaning	Cannot express meaning of the subject to points	
Visual Display				**20 Points**
Info Presented in Best Manner	Easy to understand demo, appropriate for audience	Fairly easy to follow, display reflects topic	Display does not match demo topic, not understandable	
Neat and Attractive	No spelling or grammar errors, easy to see, decorated	Mostly organized, good grammar and spelling	Unorganized design, poor grammar, and spelling	
Presented in Logical Order	Presented in a "timeline" model, steps are clear	Step by step format, easy to follow for the most part	No logical process to transition from idea to idea	
Information				**10 Points**
Known Facts Presented Correctly	Facts are used appropriately to support the demo	Facts are used, not always in a logical way	Facts are not used or unrelated to demo topic	
Known Facts Used Accurately	Facts are used often, supported with references to sources	Facts are used sometimes, missing references	Facts are not used or are inaccurate	
General Effect				**20 Points**
Interesting	Topic made relatable to audience through examples/facts	Some examples and facts, may lack reliability	Audience is not attracted to the topic	
Understandable	Topic is appropriate for the age/type of audience	Topic is slightly mature/immature for audience	The presentation is not understood by audience	
Response to Questions				**20 Points**
Ability to Answer Questions	Answers questions in full, provides additional facts	Displays general understanding, not always complete	Avoids or dances around the answer, no facts are used	
			Grand Total of Possible Points	**_____100**