Virginia FFA: Career Applications in Horticulture

State Fair of Virginia

2026 Contest Letter

This is an adaptive contest intended for students who have validated/documented academic needs and require support and/or accommodations.

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: Cindy Green Sarah Jo Jones	**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 adaptive contest allows participants to demonstrate their knowledge of plant science, (identification and anatomy), greenhouse safety, and horticulture sciences.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Each FFA Chapter is invited to enter up to 6 individuals.
2. Contestants must be active FFA members enrolled in an agricultural education course during the school term immediately preceding the contest. This is an adaptive event

designed for students with documented academic needs who require support and/or accommodations.

3. Pre-registration is required by September 16th.
4. The purpose of this contest is to evaluate green industry career readiness through demonstrative and knowledge-based assessments. The students will rotate through the following stations:
    a. *Plant I.D.*: Identification of different common greenhouse plants. Students will be given an answer choice bank and will be presented a live sample or photo (10 samples - 100 points)
    b. *Parts of a Plant*: Identification of different plant parts. Students will be given 10 samples with an arrow pointing to the plant part to identify. Live samples or photos may be utilized, and an answer bank will be provided. (10 samples - 100 points)
    c. *Safety*: Students will be shown 5 different photos. In each photo, a potential safety hazard is displayed. Using short answer (either written or scribed by an assistant), students will identify the safety hazard pictured. (5 hazards - 50 points)
    d. *Seed Pack Evaluation*: Students will respond in short answers to questions based on information provided on the back of a seed pack. Potential questions could include: shade/sun requirements, depth for planting, days till germination, etc. (5 questions - 50 points)
    e. *Demonstration Practicum*: During this component of the contest, students will demonstrate a planting assignment based on a grower's specification photo/drawing and instructions. Their work will be evaluated on design accuracy, appropriate planting technique and placement, and workspace clean-up. All supplies will be provided. (100 points)
5. This contest will utilize 15-minute increments and will be adjusted if the entire group requires more or less time. If time and space allows, the contest will be self paced.
6. The maximum score is 400 points.
7. The tiebreaker will be the practicum.

Judging/Scoring Criteria:

- The Career Applications in Horticulture Event will be scored based on the criteria listed in the rules section
- Schools may register up to 6 individuals. The top three scores will be considered for ranking of teams.

Awards:

Ribbons:

1st-6th Place Teams - Rosette Ribbons
7th-8th Place Teams - Flat Ribbons
1st-6th Place Individuals - Rosette Ribbons
7th-10th Place Individuals - Flat Ribbons

All Participants - Participant Ribbons

Team Premiums:

Place:	Award:	Place:	Award:
1st	$50	6th	$25
2nd	$45	7th	$20
3rd	$40	8th	$15
4th	$35	9th	$10
5th	$30	10th	$5

Individual Premiums:

Place:	Award:	Place:	Award:
1st	$25	6th	$5
2nd	$20	7th	$5
3rd	$15	8th	$5
4th	$10	9th	$5
5th	$5	10th	$5

Event Sponsor:

Supplementary Materials:

- Plant ID list

Plant ID List

Number	Botanical Name	Common Name
101	*Begonia x semperflorens-cultorum*	Wax Begonia
102	*Canna x generalis cv.*	Canna Lily (Garden Canna)
103	*Cholorphytum comosum cv.*	Spider Plant
104	*Chrysanthemum x morifolium*	Florist's Chrysanthemum
105	*Dianthus caryophyllus cv.*	Carnation
106	*Dieffenbachia maculata cv.*	Spotted Dumb Cane
107	*Euphorbia pulcherrima cv.*	Poinsettia
108	*Gypsophila elegans cv.*	Baby's Breath
109	*Hosta cv.*	Hosta
110	*Kalanchoe x blossfeldiana cv.*	Kalanchoe
111	*Narcissus pseudonarcissus cv.*	Daffodil
112	*Opuntia cv.*	Cactus
113	*Parethenocissus tricuspidata*	Boston Ivy
114	*Pelargonium x hortorum cv.*	Zonal Geranium
115	*Petunia x hybrida cv.*	Petunia
116	*Philodendron scandens oxycardium*	Heartleaf Philodendron
117	*Rosa spp.*	Rose
118	*Rumohra adiantiformis*	Leatherleaf Fern
119	*Sansevieria trifasciata cv.*	Snake Plant
120	*Tulipa spp cv.*	Tulip