VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION

Virginia FFA: Forestry Field Day

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:** First Bank and Trust Barn	**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2026 **Times:** *Registration:* 11:30 AM (after Junior Foresters) *Awards:* Following Junior Foresters in the First Bank Showring Tent
Contest Superintendents: Mr. Thomas Snoddy	**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 Forestry Field Day event allows members to demonstrate skills related to the forestry industry.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Rules and Guidelines: A TEAM IS COMPRISED OF 7 FFA MEMBERS. Members are only allowed to compete in one event. Please train alternates so that your students can compete with a full team.
    a. Log Roll - 2 students
    b. Log Throw - 1 student
    c. Crosscut Saw - 2 students
    d. Water Accuracy - 1 student
    e. Bow Saw - 1 student

2. There will be a junior (6-9th grade) category and a senior (10-12th grade) category. A school may enter one junior and one senior team.

Events:

Log Roll*:* A log, approximately 12 inches in diameter on the small end and 8 to 10 feet in length, will be provided for the competition. The course dimensions are 15’ x 30’. The log may be rolled with peaveys/cant hooks and contestants' feet. Contestants must place the log in front of the starting line, not on the starting line. Contestants may put their feet on the log but may not rock or cause any movement in the log until given the start order from the judge. Once given the start order, the log will be rolled between two upright stakes. Once the log reaches the halfway point on the course (marked by 2 stakes), the log must be spun end to end (180 degrees). At no point may a contestant use their hands to touch the log. The log may be lifted off the ground with the hooks. Once the log has been spun end to end, the log must be rolled completely over the finish line using the hooks and/or feet. Contestants must complete the course in three minutes. Time stops when the log crosses the finish line. The best time wins. Entries limited to one two-person team per school. There will be a 10 second penalty each time the middle stakes are touched by the log. The log must cross the finish line without touching the end stakes. If the end stakes are knocked down and the log does not pass between the stakes, the contestants will be disqualified. Lifting the log over a stake also results in a 10 second penalty. If two or more stakes are knocked down in a row, the contestants will be disqualified.

Log Throw**:** Throwing a pulpwood stick for distance. Any method of wind up and delivery you can think of that is performed by one person using no artificial devices for assistance. Course dimensions are 20’ x 60’. Contestants that step over the throw line will be disqualified. Stick size approximately 5 inches in diameter and 4 to 6 feet in length. Contestants who wind up by making more than one body turn will be disqualified. Entries limited to one individual per school. Best distance wins.

Cross-Cut Saw**:** Two-person team sawing through a log or cant. Bring your own cross-cut saw or use one provided by the Virginia Division of Forestry. Best time wins. The saw blade must cut through the entire log, if the cut/blade comes out in an angle then the team is disqualified. The students start with the blade centered on the log and begin the cutting process when told to start by the contest official. Time ends when the cut log hits the. ground. Best time wins. Time limit of three minutes. Log/cant size approximately 8-10 inches in diameter. Entries limited to one two-person team per school. Lubricant is allowed only once—before sawing begins. State Forester may allow someone to sit/hold the opposite side of the log or get behind the sawbuck (opposite end. of the log where the student is using the saw) to help hold the log and keep it from falling after the cut is made.

Water Accuracy**:** Squirt water with a back pump (Indian Pump) provided by the Virginia Division of Forestry. #10 tin can placed 15 feet away on a post 4 feet high. Most water in a can in one-minute time wins. Entries limited to one individual per school. All teams must use the Indian Pump provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

***Bow Saw*:** One contestant sawing through a log or cant. It is recommended that students also wear chaps, safety glasses, and gloves for this event. Bring your own saw or use one provided by the Virginia Department of. Forestry. In past events teams bringing their own equipment have done better. We encourage each team to bring their own saws, but please keep a safety guard on the blade except during the event. The students start with the blade centered on the log and begin the cutting process when told to start by the contest official. Time ends when the cut log hits the ground. Best time wins. Time limit of two minutes. Log/cant size approximately 6 inches in diameter. Entries limited to one individual per school. Lubricant is allowed only once— before sawing begins. State Forester may allow someone to sit/hold the opposite side of the log or get behind the sawbuck (opposite end of the log where the student is using the saw) to help hold the log and keep it from falling after the cut is made.

Personal Protective Equipment:
Log Roll: Long pants, closed toed shoes
Recommended: Leather gloves See note below concerning eye protection and gloves.

Low Throw: Long pants, closed toed shoes
Recommended: Leather gloves

Crosscut Saw: Long pants, closed toed shoes, leather gloves, eye protection, chainsaw chaps
Note: Long pants and closed toed shoes are also required for individuals sitting on the log. See note below concerning eye protection and gloves.

Water Accuracy: Long pants, closed toed shoes
Note: Teams must use the VDOF issued backpack tank and cannot use one brought from their home school.

Bow Saw: Long pants, closed toed shoes, leather gloves, eye protection, chainsaw chaps
Note: Long pants and closed toed shoes are also required for individuals sitting on the log. See note below concerning eye protection and gloves.

NOTE: All equipment will be provided (cross-cut saws, bow saws, backpack water pump, cant hooks, etc.). Teams may bring their own equipment (saws, cant hooks, etc.), except backpack water pumps. In past events, teams bringing their own equipment have done better.

Eye protection and leather gloves will not be provided. Teams must bring their own eye protection and leather gloves for use in the competition. Chainsaw chaps will be available for contestants to use during the competition. **Teams bringing crosscut saws and bow saws to the fairgrounds must keep the saw blades covered at all times, except during competition use. Cant hooks and peaveys brought to the fairgrounds must have the hook secured so that it cannot pivot, and the hook point and peavey point covered at all times, except during competition use. For safety reasons: students and coaches are forbidden to carry the cant hook or peavey on their shoulder when transporting to and from the event.

All equipment will be checked prior to entry into the fairgrounds, and any items found not sufficiently sheathed will be refused entry to the fairground's property.

Judging/Scoring Criteria:

- The state winner is determined by the placing score in each event. Should a tie occur, the number of wins in each event per school will be added to determine the winner and if a tie still exists the log roll time will be used to determine the winner.

Awards:

Ribbons (Junior and Senior):
1st-6th Place Teams - Rosette Ribbons
High Individual - Rosette Ribbon
High Junior Team - Plaque (Virginia FFA)
High Senior Team - Plaque (Virginia FFA) and Stihl Chainsaw
(if funding is available)

First 50 teams to register will receive a t-shirt sponsored by Virginia Forest Products Association

T-shirt Sponsor:

Event Sponsor:

JAMES RIVER EQUIPMENT