Virginia FFA: Horticulture 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: Ed Olsen	**Entry Deadline:** September 16, 2026 by 5:00 PM.	**Questions? *Contact us!*** *Virginia FFA Association* Andy Seibel - gseibel@vt.edu Sarah Jo Jones - sarahjo@vt.edu 540-231-3823	

Purpose:

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

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Each FFA Chapter is invited to enter TWO demonstrations. If two teams are registered, they must be in different divisions.
2. Demonstrations are presented by either one individual contestant or a team of two contestants.
3. Contestants may be any active FFA member who is enrolled in an agricultural education course during the school term preceding entry in the contest.
4. No individual may present the same demonstration in successive years.
5. Presentations must be of a demonstration nature (actually doing something), not simply an illustrated talk.
6. Demonstration topics may deal with fruits, vegetables, nuts, flowers, ornamental plants, turf within any of the following areas:

a. **Production:** Crop production or soil management.
b. **Marketing:** Crop marketing or preparation for storage or exhibition.
c. **Use**: Food crop preparation for fresh use or processing or floral material preservation.
d. **Artistic Arrangement:** Artistic arrangement of live or dried products in arrangements, corsages, or plaques. Artificial plants and flowers are not allowed, but ceramic and natural ornaments may be used.
e. **Landscaping:** Landscaping, installation, and plant maintenance within and around the home, business, or public grounds.
f. **Middle School Division** (may choose to present a topic related to any of the above categories).

7. Each demonstration is limited to 12 minutes. Following the demonstration, the judges (only) may ask questions of the contestant(s) and only about the demonstration for 3 minutes.
8. Contestants must provide all equipment and materials required for their demonstrations.
9. All categories will be limited to the first 10 entries in each category.
10. No individual may present the same presentation as presented in the agriscience demonstration contest.

Judging/Scoring Criteria:

- The Horticulture Demonstration contest is judged using the attached rubric.

Awards:

Cash Awards for Top 3 in each category.
(will be split if awarded to a team of two):
1st Place - $20
2nd Place - $10
3rd Place - $5

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 in Senior Categories: $200
2nd Place in Senior Categories: $100
(scholarships are split if it is a team of two contestants)

Event Sponsor:

Supplementary Materials:

- Rubric

Horticulture Demonstration Contest

Title of Demonstration	Individual or Team
1. Name:	Chapter:
2. Name:	

Category (circle): Production Marketing Use Artistic Arrangement Landscaping Middle School

Indicators	Very Strong Evidence of Skill (4-5 points)	Moderate Evidence of Skill (2-3 points)	Weak Evidence of Skill (0-1 points)
I. PRESENTATION (50 points)			
Good eye contact			
Voice clear, fluent, and easily heard			
Language simple and clear			
Appearance neat and appropriate			
Suitable posture and action			
Presentation smooth rather than memorized			
Sentences short and easy to understand			
Used equipment and materials smoothly			
Visuals neat and clear			
Presentation was natural, conversational			
II. CONTENT (65 points)			
Brief and interesting introduction			
Accurate, up-to-date and complete information			
Sources of information			
Main points easy to follow			
Each main point supported with information			
Organized in logical order			
Summary effective and interesting			
Accurate answers to questions asked, questions repeated prior to answers			
Main points easy to follow			
Each main point supported with information			
Organized in logical order			
Summary effective and interesting			

Accurate answers to questions asked, questions repeated prior to answers			
III. General (30 points)			
Demonstration related to the topic			
Demonstration within 15 minute time limit (presentation 12, questions 3)			
Entire demonstration of interest			
Purpose of demonstration accomplished			
A "show how" demonstration			
Presentation was unique or challenging			
Total Per Column			
Add All Columns	**_____/145 possible**		

Comments: