VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION

Virginia FFA: Middle School Agriculture Exploration

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:** Blue Ribbon Tent	**Date:** September 30, 2026 **Times:** *Check In:* 10:00 AM *Contest Begins:* 10:30 AM (approximately) *Awards:* Following the event at the Blue Ribbon Tent
Contest Superintendents: Sarah Jo Jones LaVeta Nutter Andy Seibel	**Entry Deadline:** September 15, 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 Middle School Ag Exploration event is an introductory contest for new members at the middle school level. The goal of the event is to introduce students to agricultural concepts and to allow them an opportunity to engage in a safe competitive atmosphere.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Each FFA Chapter is invited to enter up to **three** teams of 3 or 4 individuals.
2. Team ranking is determined by combining the scores of the top three students from each team. All four members are eligible for awards.
3. Contestants must be an active FFA member who is enrolled in an agricultural education course during the school term preceding entry in the contest.
4. Pre-registration is required by September 15th.

5. The purpose of this contest is to demonstrate knowledge of agriculture concepts related to:
    a. (Every Year) FFA Knowledge: 25 Question Quiz (2 points each, 50 points)
    b. (Even Years) Ag Technology and Mechanics: 20 ID, 5 Multiple Choice Calculations/Measurement Activities (2 points each, 50 points)
    c. (Odd Years) Food and Fiber: 25 ID (2 points each, 50 points)
    d. (Even Years) Plant Science: 25 ID (2 points each, 50 points)
    e. (Odd Years) Small Animal: 25 ID (2 points each, 50 points)
6. This contest will utilize 6, 12-minute rotations and will be adjusted as needed.
7. The maximum score is 150 points. The tiebreaker will be the quiz score.
8. ID lists and measuring/calculation procedures will follow the Virginia FFA Middle School Event Guide (linked in the reference section).

Materials Needed:

- Clipboard
- Pencil
- 4-function calculator
- Clean scratch paper

Awards:

Ribbons:

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

Premiums (Top Teams):

Placing	Premium	Placing	Premium
1st	$100	6th	$50
2nd	$90	7th	$40
3rd	$80	8th	$30
4th	$70	9th	$20
5th	$60	10th	$10

Premiums (Top Individuals):

Placing	Premium	Placing	Premium
1st	$50	6th	$25
2nd	$45	7th	$20

3rd	$40	8th	$15
4th	$35	9th	$10
5th	$30	10th	$5

Scholarships (Top Individuals):

Placing	Premium
1st	$200
2nd	$150
3rd	$100
4th	$50

Reference:
Middle School Contest Guide

Event Sponsor:

JAMES RIVER EQUIPMENT