

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Sponsored by:
Department of Agricultural Education, Communications,
and Leadership
Oklahoma State University
Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Contest Superintendent

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Contest Details

Date: Saturday, April 26, 2008
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: Room 101, Agricultural Hall, OSU

****Students with cell phones will be disqualified.**
***Critique sheets will be provided the day of the contest.**

Contest Purpose, Objectives, Rules and Guidelines

OBJECTIVES

1. The purpose of the agricultural issues forum is to present a current issue to a public audience, therefore, professional ethics and standards are to be considered. Ignoring truthful information, falsifying needed information, using unreliable sources and plagiarism are violation examples.
2. Team make-up- A minimum of three and a maximum of seven students who are actively participating, orally presenting, and available to answer judge's questions.
3. To provide an opportunity to expose a wide variety of students to the selection, research, planning and presentation of an agricultural issue.
4. To acquire knowledge and skills in community leadership for present and future use.
5. To become knowledgeable of, and familiar with a variety of local, state, national and international issues facing agriculture.
6. To understand the principles and fundamentals of agricultural issue analysis.
7. To further the awareness of agricultural issues in the local community.
8. To promote integration of agricultural issue analysis in local school academic subject matter areas.
9. To promote career choices by providing an opportunity for individuals to become acquainted with professionals in the industry.
10. To foster teamwork, leadership and communication skills.

GUIDELINES

1. Each team will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level. The same agricultural issue presentation and portfolio will not be used in subsequent years by those chapters that have competed and/or won at the national contest with that particular agricultural issue presentation.
2. The issue will come from one of the following eight agricultural issue topics as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues instructional materials:
 - a) Environmental Issues
 - b) Agricultural Technology Issues
 - c) Animal Issues
 - d) Agricultural Career Issues
 - e) Economy and Trade Issues
 - f) Agricultural Policy Issues
 - g) Food Safety Issues
 - h) Biotechnology
3. The Portfolio should include items described in sections 3a, 3b, and 3c, and will be ten pages maximum.
 - a. A maximum of two pages of the Portfolio will include a summary of the issue, answering the questions that are most relevant to your topic:
 - List course(s) in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue. (See Objective 6.)
 - Why is this issue important now?
 - What is the nature of the issue?
 - Who is involved in the issue?
 - How can the issue be defined?
 - What is the historical background of the issue?
 - What caused the issue?
 - What are the risks?
 - What are the benefits?
 - Is there strong disagreement on how the issue should be solved?
 - b. The cover page will include the title of the issue, name, address and phone number of the chapter.
 - c. A bibliography of all resources and references cited which may include personal interviews and any other supporting material.
 - d. Documentation that local forums occurred such as:
 - Letters from organizations
 - News articles
 - Photos (3" x 5" or 4" x 6")
 - Scrapbook
4. Presentations may include official FFA attire, costumes, props, skits, and other creative paraphernalia (i.e. Official FFA dress is not required, but recommended if no other costumes are worn)
5. Time Limits: Five minutes will be allowed for set up. The presentation will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The presenters will receive a signal at 10 minutes and 14 minutes. At 15 minutes, the timekeeper will announce that time is up, and the presentation will end. A

maximum of 5 minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of 5 minutes. Five minutes will be allowed for take down.

6. The presentations will be designed to be viewed by the judges. The audience at-large will not be of concern to the presenters.
7. The judges will ask questions related to the issue and the presentation. Questions may be asked of all individuals of the presenting team.

SCORING CRITERIA

1. Introduction, Pro, Con and Conclusions (20 points each, 80 points total)
2. Overall presentation (participation of each member of the team, quality and power of the presentation, creativity, stage presence) (20 points)
3. Questions (25 points)
4. Portfolio: 10 pages maximum (Three parts, 25 points total)
 - Summary of the Issue, 2 pages maximum (5 points)
 - Bibliography (5 points)
 - Documentation of local forums (15 points)
5. Judges' ranking will be used to place teams. Raw scores will be utilized to break ties. Judges' questions will be used to break additional ties.
6. Maximum of 10 points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum number of pages and/or not including cover page containing required information.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

Equipment provided by the event superintendent includes: overhead projector, TV/VCR, LCD projector, slide projector, screen and computer (Windows 98 operating system with MS Office software). Other equipment is allowed but the team must provide it.

REFERENCES

This list of references is not intended to be inclusive. Other sources may be utilized and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials,
Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Updated Agricultural Instructional Materials located at
<http://web.jcs.purdue.edu/~nretzner/agissues/>

Global Vision Instructional Materials, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Agricultural Issues: Food Safety Video, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Agricultural Issues: Ground Water Safety Video, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES SCORECARD – TEAM PRESENTATION

Area/Description	Points Possible	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
1. Introduction Statement of the issue and its importance	20					
2. Pro Viewpoint	20					
3. Con Viewpoint	20					
4. Conclusion Summarize the Pros Summarize the Cons Reach a Conclusion	20					
5. Questions	25					
6. Overall Presentation	20					
7. Portfolio	25					
Total	150					
Ranking						

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES SCORECARD – Portfolio

The portfolio should include items described in Section 3a, 3b, and 3c of the Guidelines, and the Portfolio will be limited to ten pages maximum.

Area/Description	Points Possible	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
1. Summary of the Issue (Two pages maximum)	5					
2. Bibliography	5					
3. Local Forums	15					
Total (Transfer to appropriate location on Presentation scorecard)	25					