

4-H/FFA/FCCLA AGRICULTURAL PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

SUPERINTENDENTS: Mike Hall (903) 767-5620 and Amy Eubanks (903) 563-4899

LOCATION: North Ridge Church of Christ; 212 Burton Road; Mount Pleasant, Texas

Entry deadline	September 1	11:59 PM
Registration	September 23	7:00 AM
Orientation	September 23	8:00 AM
Contest, including Finals and Awards	September 23	8:30 AM

CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

1. **ENTRY:** Entry forms are available online at the Titus County Fair website (<http://www.tituscountyfair.com>). The completed entry form with signatures in appropriate places and the statement of originality signed by the youth contestant must be emailed in a readable / useable format (pdf / jpg) to ***tcfairagspeaking@gmail.com*** by the entry deadline. Incomplete, late or illegible entries will not be accepted. ONLY ONE speech entry per contestant will be accepted.
2. **MANUSCRIPT:** **The manuscript and bibliography must be emailed to tcfairagspeaking@gmail.com as a single PDF file by September 1, 2017.** No late entries will be accepted.
 - a. Manuscripts will be certified and validated by a contest committee to determine if the appropriate division was entered.
 - b. Do not bring a copy of the manuscript to the speaking contest.
 - c. The manuscript must be completed in APA style, including but not limited to: page numbers, cover page with contestant's name, division, age group, and a bibliography. Entry abstract is not required. Information about APA can be found at the following link: www.apstyle.org.
 - d. A bibliography following APA style must be included. Lack of bibliography will result in disqualification.
 - e. Entries with obscene language will be disqualified.
3. **ORIGINALITY:** The manuscript and speech presentation must be the contestant's own effort. A statement of originality is included on the entry form and must be completed as a part of the entry.
4. **ELIGIBILITY:** Participation is limited to Titus, Camp, Morris, Franklin and Red River county residents only, who are members of a Texas 4-H Club, FCCLA or Texas FFA Chapter. Participants must be enrolled in, and attending, public, private or home school elementary or secondary schools in Titus, Camp, Morris, Franklin or Red River county and they must be at least 8 years old and in the third grade, but not more than 18 years old on August 31, 2017. Contestants must be bona fide residents of the Titus, Camp, Morris, Franklin or Red River county.
5. **AGE GROUPS:** Contestants will be divided into two age groups.
 - a. Junior: at least 8 years old and in the third grade, but no more than in the eighth grade during the 17/18 school year.
 - b. Senior: At least ninth grade during the 17/18 school year, but no more than 18 years old on August 31.
6. **CONTEST FORMAT:**
 - a. The speech presentations will be judged by a panel of 2-3 judges.
 - b. Divisions within age groups may be combined into rooms of not more than 15.
 - c. The top two contestants in each Division (or combined room) will advance to the Semi-Finals.
 - d. If there are more than 15 entries in a Division, the division may be divided into sub-divisions. The top two entries in the sub-division will advance to the Finals.
 - e. If there is only one room for an age group, the initial round will be the final round.
 - f. If there is only two rooms for an age group, three contestants will be advanced from each room for Finals.
7. **TIME LIMIT:** Each speech shall be a minimum of six (6) minutes and a maximum of eight (8) minutes. Deductions will be applied to overall score if time is under/over the allotted time. Time point deductions will apply as follows: Under six minutes – one point per ten seconds, over eight minutes – one point per ten seconds.

8. QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD: A three-minute question/answer period will follow each speech. At the end of three minutes, time will be called and all questioning will end. If time is called during the student's answer to a question, the contestant may complete his or her answer. Only official judges may ask questions of the contestants

9. ATTIRE: Business attire or official 4-H, FCCLA or FFA dress is recommended.

10. PROPS: The use of props of any kind is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification.

11. DIVISIONS: Each contestant will enter their speech in one of nine divisions. The division must be declared on the entry form when submitting the manuscript. There are topics which may be appropriate in more than one division. If a topic is appropriate in more than one division, final division determination of all speeches will be at the discretion of show management.

- a. **Agribusiness:** Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as cooperatives, sales, service, communications, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, hedging, advertising, etc.
- b. **Agricultural Policy:** Any current or future subject that addresses police or legislation on the following: domestic farm issues, international trade, international competition, rural economic development, legal issues, animal welfare, subsidies, price supports, etc.
- c. **Agriculture Communication:** Any current or future subject that addresses the process or act of communicating agricultural related information to the public.
- d. **Animal Science:** Any current or future subject that addresses any aspects of the dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, goat, swine, beef or specialty animal industries.
- e. **Livestock Show Ethics:** Any current or future subject that addresses any aspect of the ethics practiced in the livestock show industry.
- f. **Natural Resources:** Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as soil, water, air, water quality, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy environmental issues, etc.
- g. **Horticulture:** Any current or future subject that addresses any aspect of the horticulture and/or agronomy industries including floriculture, fruit and/or vegetable production, nursery operations, turf and landscape management, crop production or specialty crop production.
- h. **Western Heritage:** Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as western history, culture or heritage.
- i. **Agricultural Technology:** Any current or future subject regarding advancements made in agricultural practices through the use of technology, computer systems, or cutting-edge ideas.

12. SCORE SHEET: The manuscripts will be reviewed and validated by a review committee prior to the speaking contest. A separate panel of judges will evaluate and score the presentation. Judges' comments will be returned by mail to the County Extension Agent or Agriculture Science Teacher following the contest. Score sheets can be found at the Titus County Fair website

13. RESULTS: The contest results as announced will be final.

14. AWARDS:

Division Winners	Ribbons
Semi-Finals Places 3-5	Plaque or other Award
Grand Champion Speaker by Age Group	Banner, Buckle, \$250
Reserve Grand Champion Speaker by Age Group	Banner, Buckle, \$100