

2017 MA 4-H Agricultural Day Speech Contest



Purpose

The purpose of this contest is to promote a stronger interest and clearer understanding of the many aspects of agriculture. The winner will represent the 4-H Youth Development program and present their speech at MA Ag Day at the MA State House in Boston on April 4, 2017. Speaking at Ag Day provides the opportunity for our youth to gain knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of agriculture, to promote agriculture's many values and virtues in the Commonwealth and to inform others about the educational opportunities in 4-H.

Application Process

The applicant will submit the required application by **January 27, 2017** to:

Western MA 4-H Office
Attn: Carrie Chickering-Sears
101 University Drive, Suite A-4
Amherst, MA 01002

Based on the number of applicants, one or two contest sites will be set-up in the state. The contest(s) will be held during February break. You will be notified in advance of the contest, the date, time and location. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Sears at ccsears@umext.umass.edu or phone (413) 549-3257.

Subject

Contestants may choose any subject pertaining to agriculture in Massachusetts and how 4-H relates to agriculture. Current policies, affairs and trends in the industry are suitable topics. If possible, include how 4-H has helped you learn about agriculture and how it is helping you determine your career choice if you are considering a career related to agriculture.

Time Limit

The presentation should be five minutes in length. Each contestant will be allowed five minutes in which the judging committee will ask questions relating to his or her speech. Deductions will be made from the score of each judge for speeches that are under the time limit or over the time limit in length.

Rules

- Contestant must be a currently enrolled 4-H member age 14-18 years old as of 1/1/17. Applicant must be a 4-H Ambassador and/or MA 4-H Dairy Ambassador member.
- Speaking order will be randomly drawn by event officials. The event officials will introduce each participant by name and in order of the drawing.
- A contestant will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation.

A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time of each speech, noting under time or overtime, if any, for which deductions will be made.

- A maximum of five minutes will be allotted at the completion of speech for judges to ask questions. Each contestant will repeat the judge's question. Each contestant will be scored on his or her ability to answer questions by all judges.

*When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge will total their scores for each speech. The combination of the judges' scores will determine the final placings.

Score Sheet

The contest will be judged on the following criteria - number in parenthesis is maximum points possible for each category.

Content	30
Composition	25
Delivery	20
Response to Questions	25

- Content (30)**
- Provides an adequate amount of information relating to topic with substantial message
 - Material and information presented is factual, understood and well-researched
 - Presented with a purpose to entertain, inform, persuade or encourage action

- Composition (25)**
- Speech is organized containing an introduction, body & conclusion with main points and transitions
 - Correct sentence structure & proper language and grammar used
 - Demonstrates creativity & originality
 - Material presented developed by the speaker
 - Skillful use of facts engaging the audience with examples, descriptions & analogies

- Delivery (20)**
- Develops a rapport with audience
 - Easy to listen to and appealing presentation style
 - Conveyance of thought & meaning
 - Enthusiasm & conversational attitude
 - Articulate, good use of emphasis & volume
 - Confident poise & posture, makes eye contact and hand gestures used in good taste
 - Personal appearance

- Response to Questions (25)**
- Demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of subject matter
 - Answers questions accurately and demonstrates originality
 - Quickly organizes thoughts & expresses them clearly

- Time Deductions (-20)**
- Contestants will receive a 30 second grace period over or under the allotted time before deductions are taken. Any time over/under 31 to 45 seconds will receive a 10-point deduction. Any time over/under 46 to 60 seconds will receive a 20 point deduction.

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Application



Applicant's Full Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Age as of 1/1/17 _____ Birthdate _____ / _____ / _____

Name of 4-H Club _____

Are you a 4-H Ambassador or Dairy Ambassador? (circle one) If an Ambassador, which County Ambassador group are you enrolled in? _____

Agricultural Background _____

Speech Topic _____

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