

Sabine County Livestock Show Public Speaking Contest Rules

Age Divisions: Junior Division: Junior FFA, FFA or 4-H members in 3rd-8th grade Senior Division: FFA or 4-H members in 9th-12th grade

Categories:

- *Animal Science:* Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the industries of dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, swine, beef, specialty animals, embryo transfer, etc.
- *Plant Science:* Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of horticulture and/or agronomy industries. This may include such areas as floriculture, fruit and or/vegetable production, nursery operations, turf and landscape management, crop production, specialty crop production, etc.
- *Natural Resources:* Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as soil, water, air, rural water, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy, environmental issues, etc.
- *Agribusiness:* Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as cooperatives, sales, service, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, hedging, advertising, online marketing program, etc.
- *Agricultural Policy:* Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as domestic farm issues, international trade, rural economic development, politics, animal rights, law, subsidies, price supports, etc.
- *Agriculture Technology and Communications:* Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, farm safety, use of technology, research, laser, satellites, computers, journalism, communications, social media, public relations, etc.

Rules:

- Business attire or official 4-H/FFA attire is recommended.
- By entering the contest, contestants are confirming that their speech is original to them.
- Each senior division speech shall be a minimum of six minutes and a maximum of eight minutes in length. Each junior division speech shall be a minimum of five minutes and a maximum of eight minutes in length. Time deductions will be as follows:
 - Under minimum - one point per ten seconds
 - Over maximum - one point per ten seconds
- Time commences when the contestant begins speaking. The official time will be kept by a judge or a timekeeper accompanying judges. Contestants may use a wristwatch only to keep time for their own knowledge; this will not be their official, recorded time.

- A maximum five-minute question/answer period may follow each speech. At the end of five minutes, all questions will end. If time is called during the student's answer to the last question, the contestant may complete his or her answer.
- If there are more than five competitors in a speech topic category, the top two students in each category may be selected and advance to finals. Finals will consist of the top two students in each category.
- The use of props of any kind, except for notecards, is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification.
- There shall be a minimum of three and a maximum of five judges. Rubrics will be used and each judge's raw rubric scores for participants will be converted to place rankings before compiling all judges' place rankings. The highest and lowest ranks will not be dropped. "Golf scoring" will be used to determine final placings from all judges' rankings, and the lowest score is awarded first place, etc. Example: if one judge ranks "Participant A" first place, that is one point. If another judge ranks "Participant A" second place, that's two points.
- If a tie exists, it will be broken based on the contestant who scores higher on the question portion of the rubric.
- Photographs and videos may be taken for promotional purposes. If you object to participation in promotion, please let the superintendent know during check-in (prior to the start of the contest).
- First and second place will be recognized in each age division.
- No spectators other than judges, a time keeper, and show management are allowed in the room while a participant is speaking.
- Check-in for this event is 30 minutes preceding the start of the event.

Scoring:

- Rubric used for judging is attached.

Agricultural Public Speaking - Judge Scoring Rubric

Speech Composition & Organization	High Points	Middle Points	Low Points
1. Introduction Attention of the audience is gained Purpose of the speech is clearly stated Importance of the subject is established Score: _____	20 - 14	13 - 7	6 - 0
2. Body One central theme throughout Information is accurate, current, and sources given Logical sequence to presentation Educational value is clearly explained Score: _____	20 - 14	13 - 7	6 - 0

Speech Delivery & Expression	High Points	Middle Points	Low Points
3. Delivery Appearance (Grooming and neatness of appearance; composure and posture) Voice is clear and audible at all times Correct use of grammar and pronunciation Score: _____	20 - 14	13 - 7	6 - 0
4. Expression Eye contact with audience Appropriate use of gestures and body language Uniqueness of presentation Audience appeal Score: _____	20 - 14	13 - 7	6 - 0
Speech Summary	High Points	Middle Points	Low Points
5. Summary / Conclusion Major points are emphasized; adequate and effective conclusion presented Score: _____	20 - 14	13 - 7	6 - 0
Speech Topic Selection	High Points	Middle Points	Low Points
6. Subject Matter Relates to selected topic area Score: _____	20 - 14	13 - 7	6 - 0
Follow-Up Questions	High Points	Middle Points	Low Points
7. Response to Questions Accuracy and completeness of answers Poise and self-confidence Understanding of selected topic Score: _____	20 - 14	13 - 7	6 - 0
Deductions			

Time Deduction: Points to Deduct Minimum: 6 minutes Under 6 min: 1 pt. per 10 seconds Maximum: 8 minutes Over 8 min: 1 pt. per 10 seconds	10 - 7	6 - 4	3 - 0
Total: _____ of 150			