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# Oklahoma FFA Association State Public Speaking

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## Career Development Events

### General Rules and Eligibility

1. The event is open to students who are regularly enrolled in high school agricultural education and who are active members of FFA chapters in good standing with the state association and national organization. Dual members speaking in 4-H public speaking are ineligible to speak in FFA public speaking during the same school year.
2. The event is structured in four levels of advanced participation: PI, District, State, and National Qualifying. The state event will be limited to participation by two students in each division who have been determined winners in a district event.
3. Members may participate in more than one division if they give a different speech. A different speech is defined as follows: “All speech material in each manuscript must be entirely different, including the introduction, body, and conclusion, which also includes all facts, figures, quotes, titles, etc.” Any member violating this rule will automatically be disqualified in all speech divisions entered.
4. A member that wins a state speaking division is ineligible to speak again in that division. The speech manuscript is retired, and a copy is kept on file in the state office.
5. Each manuscript will be the result of the student’s own effort. To be eligible to speak, each participant will provide the following items to the event superintendent:
  - a. Three double-spaced, typewritten copies of the speech on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper. It is recommended all speech contest manuscripts be bound by GBC Binding.
  - b. It is required that the Title Page of each manuscript must include, and in this order from top to bottom:
    - Speech Title
    - Speech Division
    - Contestant’s Name
    - FFA Chapter
  - c. A complete and accurate bibliography used in writing the speech attached to the back of each manuscript. It is recommended to use the fast and easy bibliography maker at <http://www.bibme.org/>, utilizing the APA bibliography format.
  - d. A Certification Sheet (statement of originality signed by the contestant and advisor) attached to the back of each manuscript. It is recommended the Speech Certification form be typed/computer generated. A template may be found at [www.okffa.org](http://www.okffa.org). Click on Career Development Events. Click on Public Speaking.
6. Any speech participant not in Official FFA dress will receive a five-point deduction. The Oklahoma FFA Constitution defines official FFA dress:
  - a. Official dress for male members is black slacks or black, pleated jeans; white shirt; official FFA tie; black dress shoes or boots; black socks; and official jacket zipped to the top. Black slacks or pleated jeans noticeably worn or faded are not acceptable.
  - b. Official dress for female members is a black skirt, white blouse, official FFA scarf, black dress shoes, and official jacket zipped to the top. The black skirt shall be no shorter than one inch above the knee. Black slacks are not accepted official dress for female members in Oklahoma.

7. Each speech shall be a minimum of six minutes in length and a maximum of eight minutes. Participants will be allowed five minutes additional time to be asked questions relating to their speech. Participants are penalized one point per ten seconds for under six minutes or over eight minutes. Examples: 8:01 to 8:10 would cost a one-point deduction; 8:11 to 8:20 would cost a two-point deduction, etc.
8. The use of props in FFA public speaking is not acceptable. Any member violating this rule will automatically be disqualified.

## National Qualifying Rules

1. The state winner in each of the six designated prepared divisions will compete during the state FFA convention to determine Oklahoma's representative in the National Prepared Public Speaking Event.
2. A student who wins more than one designated prepared division at the state event must choose one division to participate in at the national qualifying event during the state convention. The division(s) not selected will be filled by the second-place state winner who will advance to the national qualifying event at the state convention.
3. The speech manuscripts of all six participants in the national qualifying event at the state convention will be retired, and these participants cannot participate in the same division in future years.
4. Any member who has represented Oklahoma in a national career development event or national awards area as a 4-H or FFA member is ineligible to participate again in the National Qualifying Event for that area as an FFA member. Therefore, a member who has represented Oklahoma in the National Prepared Public Speaking Event is ineligible to participate again in any prepared division at the OSU State FFA Interscholastics.
5. A member can participate in only one national career development event in a given year. A member speaking in the state event in both prepared and extemporaneous public speaking must declare in which division the speaker would represent Oklahoma in the national event in the event the speaker won both divisions. This must be done prior to the national qualifying event for the prepared division.
6. A member who wins both extemporaneous and prepared divisions but chooses to participate in the prepared division at the national event may compete again in the extemporaneous division for the right to represent Oklahoma in the national event. The reverse of this does not apply.
7. The division winners at the OSU State FFA Interscholastics in Stillwater will receive all scholarships provided by sponsors for that division.

## Speech Topics and Descriptions

The following description for each speech division is provided to the participants as a **suggested guideline** for that division and is in no way meant to be all inclusive. Also, there are certainly some subject matter areas that could be appropriate in more than one division.

It is the responsibility of the participant to select subject matter appropriate and acceptable to the judges. Obviously, all subject matter should have ties to the agricultural industry.

Members may participate in more than one division if different speeches are given in each division. A different speech is defined as follows: "All speech material in each manuscript must be entirely different, including the introduction, body, and conclusion, which also includes all facts, figures, quotes, titles, etc."

In all speech divisions it is desired, but not required, to tie "FFA" in as a part of your speech in an appropriate way. Career opportunities should also be considered. Historical aspects should be avoided.

## Designated FFA Prepared Public Speaking Divisions

**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, etc.

**PLANT SCIENCE** • Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the 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, journalism, communications, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, hedging, advertising, 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.

**AGRISCIENCE** • 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, embryo transfer, etc.

## FFA Creed, Extemporaneous, and Other Divisions

### FFA Creed

- This division is for freshman members only. First-year members competing in this division must be in the ninth grade (sophomores who are first-year members are not eligible).
- The FFA Creed was last revised in November 1990. A current copy of the Creed can be found on the back of the Creed score sheet.
- Each participant must recite the FFA Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, "The FFA Creed by E. M. Tiffany." Each participant shall end the presentation with the statement ". . . that inspiring task. Thank you."
- Judges are allowed three minutes to question participants following the presentation.

### EXTEMPORANEOUS

- Topics will cover the following three themes: (1) agriscience & technology, (2) agrimarketing, and (3) international agricultural relations.
- Participants will draw three specific topics and select one of the three on which to speak.
- Participants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals and given exactly 30 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
- Reference material shall be limited to five items.
- Must be printed material such as books or magazines and/or a compilation of collected materials. To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder of collected materials may contain no more than 100 pages, single side (cannot be notes or speeches prepared by the participant or notes prepared by another person for the purpose of use for this event). (Copies must reference the origination point.)

- This division is 4-6 minutes in length with five minutes allowed for questioning.

### **8th GRADE AGRICULTURE EXPLORATION**

- Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with the industry of agriculture as a whole, or any segment of the agricultural industry.
- This division is for eighth-grade members only. First-year FFA members participating in this division must also be enrolled in eighth grade.
- This division is 4-6 minutes in length with five minutes for questioning.

### **9th GRADE FFA OPPORTUNITIES**

- Participants may choose any current or future subject that deals with the role of agricultural education and the FFA in the education and motivation of its members. Topics may deal with leadership, leadership training, personal development and growth, goal setting and teamwork, chapter and community activities, competitive activities, FFA opportunities, etc.
- This division is for freshman (ninth-grade) members only. All participants must be enrolled in the ninth grade.

### **8-9-10th GRADE BELIEVE IN OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURE**

- Participants should discuss why they believe in Oklahoma Agriculture. They should exhibit an understanding of the importance of production agriculture to our state and nation. Areas of focus may include economics, food supply, food safety, animal welfare, future growth, culture, environment, career opportunities, traditions, and quality of life.
- Eighth-grade students who are also participating in the eighth-grade Agriculture Exploration division must develop an entirely different speech. See the state rule for the definition of a “different speech.”