

2024 American Farmers and Ranchers Cooperative

79th Annual Speech Contest

Registration for all **district** contests begins at 4:00 p.m. followed by a contest briefing at 4:30 p.m. Judges and speakers will then disperse to assigned classrooms for competition. Immediately following the competition, a meal will be served. Awards, special recognition, and final comments will conclude the contest.

2024 Speech Contest Dates:

Central Monday, Nov. 11 Tecumseh High School
Northeast Tuesday, Nov. 12 Lone Star School, Sapulpa
Southeast Thursday, Nov. 14 EOSC, Wilburton
Southwest Monday, Nov. 18 Cache High School
Northwest Thursday, Nov. 21 Autry Tech Center, Enid

State Finals will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at OSU-Stillwater, Classroom Building, and Room 313. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the contest will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Speaking Categories:

AFR/OFU • Participants may speak on the history or current activities of AFR/OFU Cooperative, and its fight to support agriculture and rural families through legislation, cooperation, and educational opportunities.

AGRISCIENCE • Participants may choose any issue such as agronomic or horticultural science, biotechnology, genetics, engineering, farm safety, food production, mechanical engineering, use of technology such as satellites or any animal, plant science, and any science related topic, etc.

NATURAL RESOURCES • Participants may choose any issue such as natural resources conservation, water, air, forestry, aquaculture, energy, environment, horticulture, wildlife, soil, etc.

AGRIBUSINESS • Participants may choose any issue dealing with any topic such as cooperatives, value-added products, sales, service, traditional/non-traditional entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, advertising, economic development, etc.

AG POLICY • Participants may speak on laws, regulations, or legislation for any agricultural issue. Participants may also choose any topic that deals with consumer awareness, literacy and advocacy programs, social media, food security, trade, tariffs, climate change, animal rights/animal welfare, etc.

EXTEMPORANEOUS • Participants topics will include subjects from the following categories; agricultural literacy and advocacy, current agricultural issues, advancing agriculture through agriculture science, current technology uses and applications in agriculture, agri-marketing and international agriculture, and food and fiber systems.

Age Divisions:

Novice Division -- Students in grades 3, 4 and 5. Time Limit: 2-4 minutes. Novice speakers may only compete in the AFR/OFU category.

Junior Division -- Students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Time Limit: 4-6 minutes.

Junior speakers may only compete in the AFR/OFU and Agriscience categories.

Intermediate Division -- Students in grades 9 and 10. Time Limit: 6-8 minutes.

Senior Division -- Students in grades 11 and 12. Time Limit: 6-8 minutes.

Extemporaneous Category- Students in grades 11 and 12. Time Limit: 4-8 minutes.

Rules and Procedures

1. **Contestants will be disqualified if their speech fails to clearly mention American Farmers and Ranchers and Oklahoma Farmers Union. Either the acronym “AFR/OFU” or the full name “American Farmers and Rancher/ Oklahoma Farmers Union” is required. The full name must be included in all speeches.**
2. At all district contests, ALL students will enter the speaking room prior to the first speaker beginning his/her speech and will depart the speaking room following the last speaker’s delivery of speech. No exceptions unless prior arrangements have been made with the AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator before the contest begins. This provides an opportunity for speakers to learn from each other and reflects a real-world environment when public speaking. Any contestant causing a distraction during another contestant’s speech will be disqualified.
3. Participants shall enter within their district as depicted on the accompanying map. Transfers out of districts are not allowed. The districts align with the five Oklahoma FFA Areas.
4. Contestants shall enter in only one division and category.
5. Speeches will be judged by a panel of judges individually scoring each speaker. Each judge will rank all contestants in order, highest score to lowest score. Collectively, judges will add ranking scores to select the category winner - lowest total ranking points wins the category. However, any contestant receiving a first-place vote from two judges automatically wins. Scoring and potential points will include, but not be limited to, the following: stage presence, delivery, content, and general effect.
6. At the discretion of the judges, the use of notes may be allowed, but could adversely affect scoring. Electronic devices, charts and props are prohibited.
7. There is no maximum limit to the number of contestants from one school or chapter.
8. First and second place district contest winners advance to the state contest. Third place winners will be alternates to the state contest.
9. Copies of speeches are not required at district contests, but state contest qualifiers must submit three copies of their speech to their category judges at the state contest, prior to speaking. This manuscript must be double-spaced and include a bibliography page. Failure to do so will be cause for disqualification. The judges will retain one copy of the manuscript that will be kept on file at the AFR Home Office.
10. Contestants will be required to answer speech-related questions at the state finals. The maximum five-minute question period will consist of one pre-determined question originating from AFR State, followed by questions determined by the panel of judges.
11. At the state contest, students will enter the room individually and speak before the three judges. No one else is allowed in the room at any time.
12. Once a participant has won a category at state, they will no longer be allowed to participate in the same category while still in that division. They are still eligible to speak in any of the other categories within the division.
13. **NEW CATEGORY- EXTEMPORANEOUS;** Only the senior age division is eligible to compete in the extemp category. No parents, sponsors or other speakers are allowed in the speaking room. Please see additional extemporaneous rules on the attached sheet.

Awards and Recognition

The first three participants placed in each category and division at district contests will receive an award. The top two in each category and division will advance to the State Speech Contest on Saturday, December 2nd at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. The first three participants placed in each category and division at the state contest will receive awards and scholarships in the amounts listed below. Cash scholarships will be awarded to the state winners.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking – American Farmers and Ranchers

1. EVENT RULES

- Oklahoma FFA rules apply to the AFR Extemporaneous speaking category.
- The event is open to students who are currently in 11th or 12th grade of high school.
- The top two placing students in each district will advance to the state contest.
- The selection of topics will be held 30 minutes before the event. The participants will draw three specific topics, selected at random from a pool of approximately 30, relating to the industry of agriculture. After selecting the topic, they desire to speak on, all three topics will be returned for the next drawing.
- Topics will be prepared by AFR and will include subjects from the following categories.
 - Agricultural literacy and advocacy
 - Current agricultural issues
 - Advancing agriculture through agricultural science
 - Current technology uses and applications in agriculture
 - Agri-marketing and international agriculture
 - Food and fiber systems
- Participants will be admitted to the preparation room at 10-minute intervals and given exactly 20 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
- Participants may have up to 10 minutes to conduct online research. Computers will not be provided and must be brought by the student. Access to email, Dropbox or any prepared materials are prohibited. A room monitor will be the official timekeeper for each contestant's technology time. The use of prepared notes or speeches, even if accessed with technology time, is prohibited and will be grounds for disqualification.
- The officials in charge of the event will screen reference material on the following basis:
 - Must be limited to five items.
 - May be printed material such as books or magazines.
 - May be printed compilations of materials collected from internet research.
 - To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder of collected materials may contain no more than 100 single-sided pages or 50 double-sided pages numbered consecutively.
 - Cannot be notes or speeches prepared by the participant or by another person for the purpose of this event.
- Each speech should be the result of the participant's own effort using approved reference material which the participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided.
- Participants must use the uniform note cards provided. Any notes for public speaking must be made during the 20-minute preparation period. A participant will be permitted to use note cards while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation.
- Each speech shall be a minimum of four minutes in length and a maximum of six minutes.
- Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time. Event officials or observers will give no-time warnings.
- Participants may only enter their corresponding judging room during their presentation. Failure to comply will mean automatic disqualification of the participant.

- The room coordinator of the event will introduce the participant by name and chapter. The room coordinator will also introduce the participant's chosen topic.
- A student that wins a state speaking division is ineligible to speak again in the division.
- No props are to be used. Failure to comply will mean automatic disqualification of the participant.
- Each speech must mention American Farmers and Ranchers or Oklahoma Farmers Union or the acronym AFR or OFU or participants will be automatically disqualified.

2. JUDGING

- Following the presentation, each judge will formulate and ask questions. Questions will pertain directly to the material presented by the speaker. A maximum of five-minute question period will be allotted. Judges will score each participant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges.
- No audio or video recorders will be allowed in the contest room.
- When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score for each participant. On the bottom line of the score sheet, each judge will rank each participant in numerical order based on the final score. Judges will complete the judging process without consultation with each other.