

# 2015 American Farmers & Ranchers 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Speech Contest

## Contest Information

All District Contest registrations will begin at 4 p.m. and the contest briefing will begin at 4:30 p.m. Judges and speakers will then disperse to assigned classrooms for competition. Immediately following competition, a meal will be served. Awards, special recognition and final comments will conclude the contest.

### 2015 Speech Contest Dates

Northwest	Thursday, Nov. 5	Autry Tech Center, Enid
Central	Tuesday, Nov. 10	Tecumseh High School
Southeast	Thursday, Nov. 12	EOSC, Wilburton
Northeast	Tuesday, Nov. 17	Lonestar School, Sapulpa
Southwest	Thursday, Nov. 19	Cache High School

State Finals will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at OSU-Stillwater, Classroom Building, Room 313. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the contest will begin at 10 a.m.

### Divisions and Categories

Novice Division -- Students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Time Limit: 2-4 minutes.  
Novice speakers may only compete in the AFR/OFU Category.

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

Intermediate Division -- Students in grades 9 and 10. Time Limit: 4-6 minutes.

Senior Division -- Students in grades 11 and 12. Time Limit: 4-6 minutes.

**AFR/OFU** • Participants may speak on the history of American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union, and its fight to support agriculture and rural families through legislation, cooperation and educational opportunities.

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS** • Participants may choose any current issues that deals with their student organization. Topics such as leadership, leadership training, personal development and growth, goal setting and team work, community activities, competitions, etc. Organizations should be limited to 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, TSA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

**NATURAL RESOURCES** • Participants may choose any current issues such as soil, water, air, rural water, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy, environmental issues, agronomy, etc.

**AGRIBUSINESS** • Participants may choose any current issue that deals with topics such as cooperatives, value-added products, sales, service, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, advertising, international trade, rural economic development, politics, animal rights/animal welfare etc.

**AGRISCIENCE** • Participants may choose any current issue that deals with topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, farm safety, use of technology, research, embryo transfer, organic/conventional food production. Participants may also choose an animal science related topic dealing with dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, swine, beef, specialty animals, etc.

Speeches pertaining to Right to Farm may fit in several categories including AFR/OFU, Agribusiness and Agriscience.

## **Rules and Procedures**

- 1. Contestants will be disqualified if their speech fails to clearly mention American Farmers & Ranchers *AND* Oklahoma Farmers Union. Both names 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 & Education 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. All speeches given in the student organizations category are limited to the listed organizations.**
- 4. 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 Districts.**
- 5. Contestants shall enter in only one division and category.**
- 6. Speeches will be judged by a panel of judges individually scoring each speaker. Each judge will rank in order all contestants, 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.**
- 7. Judges will break ties in scoring by first collectively adding a contestants' total points - the contestant with the highest score wins the tie. Should the tie continue, judges will collectively add contestants' total points in the "delivery" portion of the score sheet, highest score wins the tie.**
- 8. 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.**
- 9. There is no maximum limit to the number of contestants from one school or chapter.**
- 10. First and second place district contest winners advance to the state contest. Third place winners will be alternates to the state contest.**
- 11. 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.**
- 12. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS - Each speaker advancing to the state contest will be asked to present the pre-printed information card he/she received at their respective district contest at registration of the state contest. This card will have all of the student's needed information for the AFR Youth & Education Coordinator to complete the scholarship award process in a timely manner. This card will be included with the letter that each advancing speaker will receive along with their plaque at their district contest. If the student does not present this card at registration, the student will not be allowed to speak in the State Finals Contest. Additional cards will also be available at the state contest site.**
- 13. 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 the State AFR Office, followed by five minutes of questions determined by the state finals panel of judges.**
- 14. At the state contest, students will enter the room individually and speak before the three judges.**
- 15. 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.**

## Time Limits

An official timekeeper will time all speeches. Judges will use time as criteria in scoring in the case of penalty points. Time penalty points are added to the contestant's placing score. Penalty points will be administered as follows:

### Novice Division

Under 1 minute .....	Disqualification
1:01 to 1:30 .....	1 Point
1:31 to 4:30 .....	No Penalty
4:31 to 5:00 .....	1 Point
5:01 to 5:30 .....	2 Points
5:31 and over .....	Disqualification

### Junior, Intermediate & Senior Divisions

Under 3 minutes .....	Disqualification
3:01 to 3:30 .....	1 Point
3:31 to 6:30 .....	No Penalty
6:31 to 7:00 .....	1 Point
7:01 to 7:30 .....	2 Points
7:31 and over .....	Disqualification

## Awards and Recognition

The first three participants placing in each category and division at district contests will receive plaques. The first three participants placing in each category and division at the state contest will receive plaques and scholarships in the amounts listed below.

Cash scholarships will be awarded to the State Winners in the following manner:

	<u>Novice</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Senior</u>
1st:	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$300
2nd:	\$75	\$100	\$150	\$250
3rd:	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200

For more information please contact: Steve Thompson, Membership Services – Ag Programs Manager  
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