



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION



Virginia FFA: Horticulture Demonstration

State Fair of Virginia
2025 Contest Letter

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| State Fair Address: Meadow Event Park 13111 Dawn Blvd Doswell, VA 23047 Caroline County | Contest Registration and Tickets: Participants must have a \$6 Student Competition Ticket to enter the Fairgrounds unless they are already at the Fair for another competition. Agricultural Education instructors are responsible for ordering tickets: https://www.vaffa.org/state-fair-of-virginia | Event Location: Farm Credit Pavilion | Date: September 29, 2025 Times: <i>Contest Meeting:</i> 10:00 AM <i>Contest Begins:</i> 10:15 AM <i>Awards:</i> Following the Event |
| Contest Superintendents: Ed Olsen | Entry Deadline: September 18, 2025 by 5:00 PM. | Questions? Contact us! Virginia FFA Association Andy Seibel - gseibel@vt.edu Sarah Jo Jones - sarahjo@vt.edu 540-231-3823 | |

Purpose:

This event allows participants to present an informative topic related to horticulture in a demonstrative way. Students present their project to a panel of judges and then receive questions.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Each FFA Chapter is invited to enter TWO demonstrations. If two teams are registered, they must be in different divisions.
2. Demonstrations are presented by either one individual contestant or a team of two contestants.

3. Contestants may be any active FFA member who is enrolled in an agricultural education course during the school term preceding entry in the contest.
4. No individual may present the same demonstration in successive years.
5. Presentations must be of a demonstration nature (actually doing something), not simply an illustrated talk.
6. Demonstration topics may deal with fruits, vegetables, nuts, flowers, ornamental plants, turf within any of the following areas:
 - a. **Production:** Crop production or soil management.
 - b. **Marketing:** Crop marketing or preparation for storage or exhibition.
 - c. **Use:** Food crop preparation for fresh use or processing or floral material preservation.
 - d. **Artistic Arrangement:** Artistic arrangement of live or dried products in arrangements, corsages, or plaques. Artificial plants and flowers are not allowed, but ceramic and natural ornaments may be used.
 - e. **Landscaping:** Landscaping, installation, and plant maintenance within and around the home, business, or public grounds.
 - f. **Middle School Division** (may choose to present a topic related to any of the above categories).
7. Each demonstration is limited to 12 minutes. Following the demonstration, the judges (only) may ask questions of the contestant(s) and only about the demonstration for 3 minutes.
8. Contestants must provide all equipment and materials required for their demonstrations.
9. All categories will be limited to the first 10 entries in each category.

Judging/Scoring Criteria:

- The Horticulture Demonstration contest is judged using the attached rubric.

Awards:

*Cash Awards for Top 3 in each category.
(will be split if awarded to a team of two):*

1st Place - \$20

2nd Place - \$10

3rd Place - \$5

Ribbons for Junior and Senior:
1st - 6th Place - Rosette Ribbons

State Fair Scholarship Program:

Contestants will be eligible to participate in the State Fair Scholarship Program. Please see the State Fair website, www.statefairva.org for more information regarding the State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program and eligibility requirements for other available scholarships. The following scholarships will be awarded to the top individuals:

1st Place in Senior Categories: \$200

2nd Place in Senior Categories: \$100

(scholarships are split if it is a team of two contestants)

Event Sponsor:



JAMES RIVER

EQUIPMENT

Supplementary Materials:

- Rubric



Judge _____

Horticulture Demo

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Title of Demonstration: | | Individual or Team |
| 1. Name: | State: | Age: |
| Address: | | Zip: |
| 2. (if team demonstraton) Name: | | Age: |
| Address: | | Zip: |
| Coach(es): | | SCORE TOTAL = |

Demonstration Area (please circle): Production Marketing Use Artistic Arrangement Landscaping Special

| Indicators | Very strong evidence of skill 4-5 points | Moderate evidence of skill 2-3 points | Weak evidence of skill 0-1 points |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Oral Communication and Non-Verbal Communication | | | |
| I. PRESENTATION | | | |
| Good eye contact | | | |
| Voice clear, fluent, and easily heard | | | |
| Language-simple and clear | | | |
| Appearance neat and appropriate | | | |
| Suitable posture and action | | | |
| Presentation smooth rather than memorized | | | |
| Sentences short and easy to understand | | | |
| Used equipment and materials smoothly | | | |
| Visuals neat and clear | | | |
| Presentation was natural, conversational | | | |
| II. CONTENT | | | |
| Brief and interesting introduction | | | |
| Accurate, up-to-date and complete information | | | |