

Ohio FFA Agriscience Fair Information

Ohio's Date, Location, and Time

- The State Agriscience Fair will be held in conjunction with the Ohio FFA Convention on the Ohio State Fairgrounds in Columbus.
- Deadline for the **Pre-Qualifying Report** will be by **11:59pm March 13, 2020**. This is denoted by advisor approval and report pdf upload in AET.
 - *Up to 12 projects with a **minimum score of 45 points** from each category/division will advance to State Convention as a finalist.*
- **Finalists** in each category/division will be posted by **April 6, 2020**.
- Finalists have until **April 17, 2020** to notify Alyssa Bregel or Patti Guseman that they will not be participating at the State Agriscience Fair or the Chapter will be charged a **\$25 NO SHOW FEE** per student.
- All exhibits will be in the Bricker Building. Tables will be provided. No electricity will be available for use by the exhibitors.
- All exhibits must be in place no later than **8:30am, Thursday, April 1**.
- Judging will begin promptly at **9:00am, Thursday, April 1**.
 - Display area will be closed at 8:45am Thursday, April 1. This will help elevate congestion in the judging area.
- All exhibits are to remain on display until **6:00pm Friday, May 2**.
- All exhibitors earning 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place will be awarded a cash price and be recognized on stage at State FFA Convention.

After State Convention

- There will be a report critique on **Wednesday, May 27, 2020** for entries moving on to prescreening at Nationals. Only first place non-gold rated projects are required to attend. First place gold rated projects are strongly encouraged, but not required.
 - Bring project report and application with you to the critique.
- All 1st place projects being sent to National FFA need to be received (mail or drop off) to Patti Guseman by **June 15 at 4:00pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Eligibility, Requirements, and Helpful Hints

1. Student must complete the online application and upload all related documents on www.theaet.com. Teachers must approve the student's application by **11:59pm on March 13, 2020**. Due to the pre-event judging schedule, late entries will not be accepted.
2. Competition is open to all current, dues paying FFA members in grades 7-12. Eligibility of each participant at the state level will be verified by checking the chapter's FFA roster.
3. All students competing at the State FFA Agriscience Fair must be in Official FFA Dress.

Eligibility, Requirements, and Helpful Hints cont.

4. There are six divisions in six categories:
 - a. Division I – Individual member in grades 7 and 8.
 - b. Division II – Team of two members in grades 7 and 8.
 - c. Division III – Individual member in grades 9 and 10.
 - d. Division IV – Team of two members in grades 9 and 10.
 - e. Division V – Individual member in grades 11 and 12.
 - f. Division VI – Team of two members in grades 11 and 12.

***Note:** The written report in Divisions 1 and 2 have different requirements. Refer to the National Agriscience Fair Program Handbook 2017-2021 for details.

5. Each member and/or team may enter **only one project**. A team is a maximum of two members working cooperatively on the same project. Successive year projects must indicate change or growth in the project from the previous year(s) in their log books. **Displays are to reflect the current year's work only**. There is no limit to the number of participants a chapter may submit.
6. A minimum of 2 weeks' notice is needed when verifying project category. For examples of projects for each category, refer to the National Agriscience Fair Program Handbook.

7. There are six categories:
 - a. Animal Systems (AS)
 - b. Environmental Services/Natural Resources Systems (ENR)
 - c. Food Products and Processing (FPP)
 - d. Plant Systems (PS)
 - e. Power, Structural, and Technical Systems (PST)
 - f. Social Systems (SS)

**** NOTE:** Taste testing project may be in the Social Systems Category not the Food Products and Processing. If you need your project verified, see above.

7. Displays at the Ohio FFA Agriscience Fair are permitted to have their lab reports, props, and log books. Ohio will follow all other National rules. After judging, Ohio FFA is not responsible for lab reports, props, log books, or displays. You may want to take any loose items with you.
 - a. **NOTE:** If the student advances to Nationals, they will not be permitted to have lab reports, props, or log books.

8. Each participant is required to interview with the judges to explain their project. The interview process should not exceed fifteen minutes. **The interview schedule will be posted on OhioFFA.org** by April 15.

9. Exhibited projects and project reports shall be the result of the student(s) own efforts.

Eligibility, Requirements, and Helpful Hints cont.

10. The 1st place Gold or Silver exhibitor in each division will be Ohio's entry to National for prescreening. If for some reason the 1st place exhibitor withdraws from competition prior to June 10th, then the 2nd place exhibitor is eligible to advance at the discretion of State Staff.
11. **Students who have previously exhibited at the National Agriscience Fair can NOT participate in the same Category/Division.**

Safety Rules

1. If an exhibit becomes unsafe or unsuitable for display, it will be removed and deemed ineligible for any awards.
2. Projects involving vertebrate animal subjects must conform with the following statement and have a fully completed non-human vertebrate endorsement form submitted: **Experiments on live animals involving surgery, the removal of parts, injection of harmful chemicals and/or exposure to harmful environments are not acceptable for the Agriscience Fair. Live vertebrates may not be exhibited at the fair.**
3. Hypodermic needles, syringes, crystals [other than sucrose (sugar) and sodium chloride (salt)] and/or **toxic and hazardous chemicals are prohibited from display** at the Agriscience Fair. Students should substitute colored water, photographs, three dimensional models or drawings for chemicals and crystals.
4. All necessary chemical glassware must be displayed in a stable manner. The items must be back from the edge of the table and may not be operational at any time.
5. No wild cultures may be incubated above room temperature; no cultures taken from humans or other warm-blooded animals may be used. This includes, but is not limited to, skin, throat and mouth.
6. Only **plastic Petri dishes** may be used in displays, and they must be sealed.
7. Lasers may not be used in any exhibit.
8. Dangerous and combustible materials are prohibited.
9. **No exhibit may have open flames.** Any part of an exhibit that can get hotter than 100 degrees Celsius (boiling water temperature) must be adequately protected from its surroundings.

Visual Display Requirements

- Each exhibit should include information relevant to the study. All projects must have name of Agriscience fair participant(s) responsible for developing the project, chapter name and state, title of category, and division.
- Each display shows the results of the study utilizing a display board no larger than 36 inches high, 48 inches wide, and 30 inches deep. Displays must be stable and free-standing.

Visual Display Tips

- While there are guidelines for your visual display, you do have some freedom to be creative and design your display to meet your project's requirements and personal style and taste.
- The flow of contents should be relatively the same, no matter the style of poster, and should follow the organization of your written report and steps that you took in completing the project. Boards and posters are typically split into three sections, and the flow of material is often down and then to the right. See Figure 1 for an example.
- Make your display as *visual* as possible. Use pictures to describe the steps of your experimental design and methodology.
- Provide graphs and tables to showcase your results.
- Any text on your board or poster should be no smaller than 18 pt. font and avoid text colors that are hard on the eyes such as red and yellow.
- Use *Figure 2* and the descriptions below as a guide for what content to include on the display.
- Displays do not have to be printed using Microsoft PowerPoint, however, the display should be in good taste and visually appealing.
- The numbers below correspond to the numbers in *Figure 2*

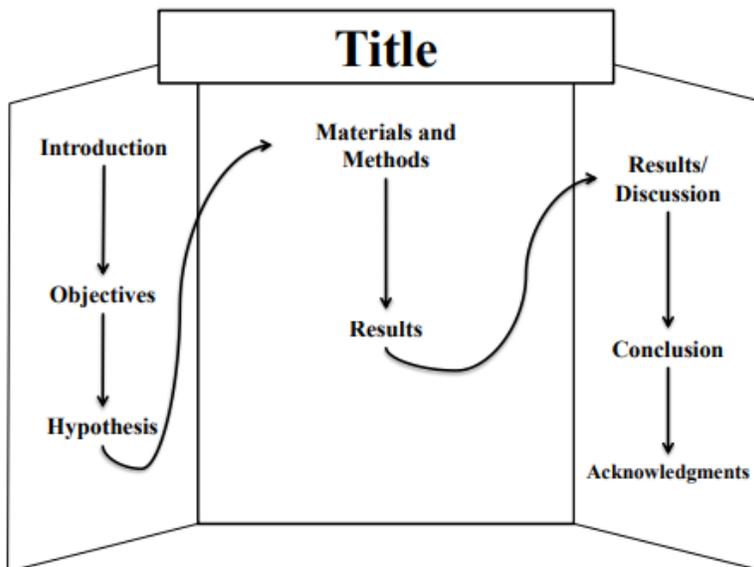


Figure 1: Example of the flow of material on an Agriscience Fair board poster.

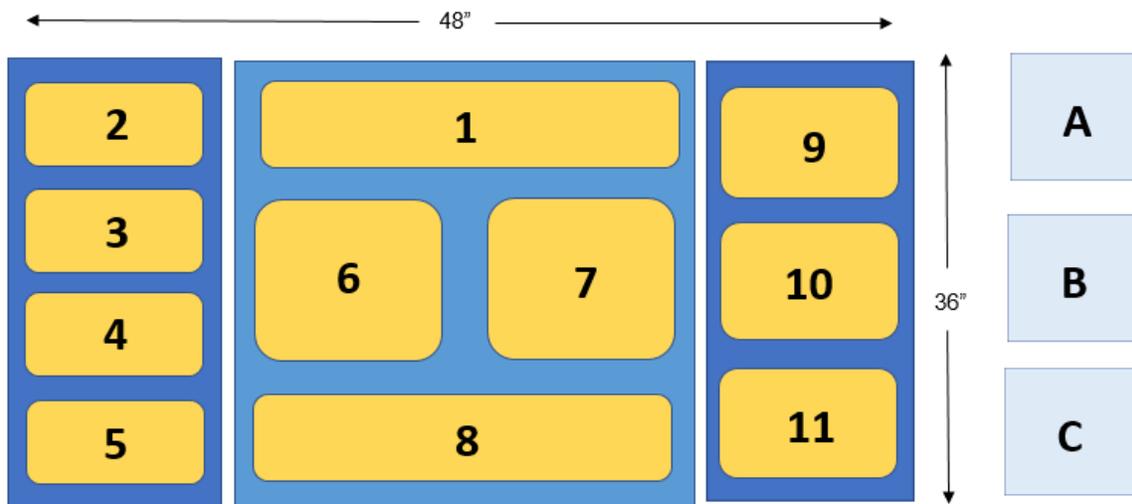


Figure 2: Example of the content and layout on the visual display.

1. **Title:** Put it in a question format. Make sure it is descriptive about your project and interesting.
2. **Purpose:** This is a statement of the problem being investigated. What do you want to find out? Be specific, avoid generalities and vague statements.
3. **Question:** What did you want to solve?
4. **Hypothesis:** Should be an "If-then" statement. The hypothesis must directly reflect the problem being investigated.
5. **Abstract:** Your entire project summarized in one sheet of paper, with the font no less than 14 point.
6. **Materials:** List everything in quantity you used. Show dimensions of materials in metric (SI) units.
7. **Procedures:** A step-by-step list of what you did. It must be detailed enough so that anyone could duplicate the experiment by following your procedures exactly. Number the steps with consecutive numbers.
8. **Tables, Graphs, Photographs:** Display visually what you did and what happened. Take pictures if possible. Graphs, tables, and charts are a MUST. Make sure all measurements are in metric (SI) units. This section should give a non-verbal representation of your project.
9. **Results:** A Summary of the observations you made during the experiment. Use both qualitative and quantitative observations. Discuss data you acquired during your experiment. This section is strictly for *factual* information based on your observations.
10. **Conclusion:** This is where you make conclusions based on your data. Was your hypothesis supported by the data? Explain any possible sources of error, uncontrolled variables, and problems you encountered. If your hypothesis was supported, say so. If not, say it wasn't and explain why this happened (based on data collected). Say what you have learned, what you might do differently, and apply your experiment to real world situations.
11. **Applications:** What will this project do to help the average farmer or food consumer?
 - A. **Photos with captions:** May be placed any place on the board. They should show all stages of the project and NO safety violations.
 - B. **Data Book:** A type of notebook (composition, spiral, etc.) that acts as a scientific journal. Record all observations in your *data book*.
 - C. **Written Report:** National will require their report template be used (NOT required for Ohio, with the understanding that the report will have to be edited if a state winner).



STEPS TO COMPLETING AN AGRISCIENCE PROJECT



1. ASK A QUESTION

- Start and maintain a research journal.
- Use your journal to ask questions.

2. RESEARCH

- Explain how your research improves previous research.
- Begin a written report.
- Write the "Introduction" section including background information and an explanation of the research questions.



3. DEVELOP HYPOTHESIS

- Look at your research question and make an educated guess for an answer.
- Choose independent and dependent variables.



4. DESIGN EXPERIMENT

- Specify the number of trials and treatments you will do
- Set up a control group that will not receive treatments
- Determine the materials you will need



5. COLLECT DATA & ANALYZE RESULTS

- Conduct your experiment and collect data.
- Summarize data, check for mistakes, and missing data
- Create graphs and tables
- Perform Statistical analysis
- Add to written report



6. DRAW CONCLUSIONS & COMMUNICATE RESULTS

- State conclusions and the impact on others and the agriculture industry.
- Complete written report and submit for evaluation.
- Create a poster to display results.

