

Ohio

AGRISCIENCE FAIR



Overview

The Ohio FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who gain hands-on experiences in agricultural research. Students use the scientific method to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources. The Ohio FFA Agriscience Fair is open to all 7th through 12th grade Ohio FFA members. Students develop a project, conduct an experiment, and draw conclusions at the local level. Then students will submit a scientific report for pre-qualification. The top four reported scores in each category/division become finalists. The finalists will participate in virtual interviews, display their exhibits at the State FFA convention, and are recognized on stage at the Ohio FFA convention.



Important Dates

March 5th, 2024, 2:30-4:00pm:

Agriscience Fair virtual office hours

March 8th, 2024, by 6:00pm:

Pre-qualifying applications are due in the AET portal. This is denoted by the advisor submitting the application in the submission list via AET.

March 19th, 2024:

The top 4 finalists in each category/division will be posted to the Ohio FFA website.

April 2nd - 4th, 2024:

Virtual interviews held for finalists are from 11am to 3pm

May 2nd, 2024, by 9:00am:

Display boards must be in place at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, (Columbus, OH) in the Bricker Building for the FFA convention.

May 3rd, 2024, between 4:30 and 5:30pm:

Display boards must be picked up between 4:30pm and 5:30pm from the Bricker Building. All exhibits and display boards that are remaining after 5:30pm will be discarded.

May 14th, 2024:

Report critique will be in Columbus, Ohio, for projects moving on to the National FFA Agriscience Fair summer judging. All advisors of first-place projects are highly encouraged to attend.

June 15th, 2023, at 4:00pm:

All 1st place projects being sent to National FFA will send Jena Kemmerer the final version number of the application to be sent to National FFA. NO EXCEPTIONS.

General Information

The Competition is open to all current, dues paying FFA members in grades 7-12th. The eligibility of each participant at the state level will be verified by checking the chapter's FFA roster. Exhibited projects and project reports shall be the result of the student(s) own efforts.

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 logbooks. Displays are to reflect the current year's work only. There is no limit to the number of participants a chapter may submit.

A minimum of 2 weeks' notice is needed when verifying project category. To verify the project category, complete this [form](#). For examples of projects for each category, refer to the [**National Agriscience Fair Handbook**](#).

There are six divisions in six categories:

- Division I – Individual member in grades 7 and 8.
- Division II – Team of two members in grades 7 and 8.
- Division III – Individual member in grades 9 and 10.
- Division IV – Team of two members in grades 9 and 10.
- Division V – Individual member in grades 11 and 12.
- 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 for details.

There are six categories:

- Animal Systems (AS)
- Environmental Services/Natural Resources Systems (ENR)
- Food Products and Processing (FPP)
- Plant Systems (PS)
- Power, Structural, and Technical Systems (PST)
- Social Systems (SS)

**** NOTE:** The taste testing project should typically be in the Social Systems category, not Food Products and Processing. To verify the correct category for a project, please submit a request.

Students who have previously exhibited at the National Agriscience Fair may NOT participate in the same Category or Division.

Steps to Complete an Agriscience Project

1. ASK A QUESTION

- Ask a question related to agriculture.
- Start and maintain a research journal.



2. RESEARCH

- Begin the written report.
- Write the Introduction to emphasize the need for the study and explain the research questions.
- Read related research studies and summarize their findings.



3. DEVELOP A HYPOTHESIS

- Create a hypothesis based on others' findings.
- Establish control, independent and dependent variables.



4. DESIGN AN EXPERIMENT

- Specify the number of trials and treatments.
- Set up a control group that will not receive any treatment.
- Determine the materials needed and specify each step you will take to conduct the experiment.



5. COLLECT DATA & ANALYZE RESULTS

- Conduct the experiment and collect data regularly.
- Summarize data, check for mistakes and missing data.
- Create tables and graphs.
- Perform statistical analysis.



6. DRAW CONCLUSIONS & COMMUNICATE RESULTS

- State conclusions and impact on the agricultural industry.
- Complete the written report.
- Communicate the results with others who may benefit from your findings.

Submitting the Application

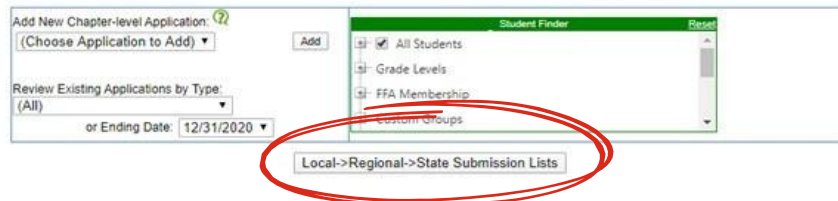
The pre-qualifying application is found in the student's AET account. From the home page, click on Reports -> Degree/Application Manager -> choose "Agriscience Fair" from the dropdown box and click "Add New." Click on the hyperlinked "Application" to the left of "Agriscience Fair" in the application list to edit the application.

The student must complete the online application and upload all related documents on www.theaet.com.

As students build their application, remember that they are working towards a fully met application that includes the manuscript upload and electronic signatures. Students or teachers **MUST** use the "Complete/Print Your App" screen to generate the PDF with a version number. The version number drives the rest of the process, so they will want to make sure it represents their latest and most complete effort. To generate the version number, the student or teacher will have to click on the icon in the "Complete/Print Your App" screen.



Teachers do not have a box for advisor approval. Teachers should use the submission list process. Teachers must designate the specific Version Number for state evaluation. See the image below.



Teachers may add to the list by typing a Version #, or by clicking Browse to see a list. Judges will see the PDF corresponding to the Version # the teacher chooses here. Please contact Jena Kemmerer at jena.kemmerer@education.ohio.gov with questions.

Application Judging & Finalist Selection

Following the application submission, the applications will be judged virtually. To become a finalist, students must earn a minimum score of 45 points on the application and be in the top 4 scores of the category/division.

Virtual Interviews

Each finalist is required to interview virtually with the judges to explain their project. A team project must be presented by a team of two. If only one team member is present, the team cannot rank higher than fourth overall. Substitutions are not permitted and will cause disqualification.

Students may use [this one slide template](#) to share information with the judges. This slide should be screen shared, and a slide template is available as an optional resource for students. Students have up to ten minutes to give an overview of their project which will be followed by a minimum of five minutes for judge questions. The interview process should not exceed fifteen minutes.

The interview schedule will be posted on OhioFFA.org. Be sure to check the schedule in case there is a participant who is unable to attend the virtual interview. All students competing in the State FFA Agriscience Fair virtual interviews must wear Official FFA Dress.

Interview Sample Questions:

- Why did you select this project?
- What was your goal?
- What did you hope to accomplish through completing this project?
- Were there any surprises in your project? How did you handle them?
- What did you learn from this experience?
- How did you manage your time for this project?
- How can your findings be applied to the agricultural industry?
- What advice would you give another student who wants to conduct an agriscience fair project?

State FFA Convention

The Top 4 Agriscience Fair finalists are required to display their project during the state convention in the Agriscience Fair display area of the Bricker Building.

Display boards must be in place by the date and time listed in “Important Dates.” Tables will be provided. No electricity will be available for use by the exhibitors.

More information will be shared with finalists regarding stage recognition. Students must wear official dress while being recognized on stage at the Ohio FFA State convention.

Each display should include information relevant to the study. All projects must have the 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 (from top of table to top of display), 48 inches wide, and 30 inches deep (the distance from front to back). Displays must be stable and free-standing.

If an exhibit becomes unsafe or unsuitable for display, or if an exhibit does not meet the visual display guidelines, it will be removed and deemed ineligible for any awards.





After State FFA Convention

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 5th, then the 2nd place exhibitor is eligible to advance at the discretion of State Staff.

There will be a report critique for entries moving on to prescreening at National FFA. All advisors of first place projects are strongly encouraged to attend. Bring project report and application with you to the critique.

Safety Rules

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.

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.

Lasers may not be used in any exhibit. Dangerous and combustible materials are prohibited. All safety rules in the National FFA Agriscience Fair handbook must be followed. Projects that violate National FFA or Ohio FFA safety rules will be disqualified.