

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 report scores in each category/division become finalists. The finalists will participate in virtual interviews, display their exhibits at the Ohio FFA State Convention, and are recognized on stage at the Ohio FFA State Convention.

Important Dates

- **March 6th, 2026, by 6:00 p.m.:** Pre-qualifying application is due to the AET Submission Manager. This is denoted by the advisor submitting the application in the submission list via AET. ****Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.**
- **March 17th, 2026:** Top 4 finalists in each category/division will be posted to the Ohio FFA website by 5 p.m.
- **March 31st—April 2nd, 2026:** Virtual interviews for finalists will be scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
 - **March 31st** – Animal Systems and Food Products & Processing Systems
 - **April 1st** – Environmental Services/Natural Resources Systems and Power, Structural, & Technical Systems
 - **April 2nd** – Plant Systems and Social Systems
- **April 30th, 2026, by 9:00 a.m.:** Display boards must be in place in the Bricker Building on the Ohio State Fairgrounds for the Ohio FFA State Convention.
- **May 1st, 2026, 5:30 p.m.:** Display boards must be picked up between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. from the Bricker Building. All exhibits remaining will be discarded.
- **May 12th, 2026:** Report critique 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, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (tentative):** All 1st place projects being sent to National FFA will send Jeffrey Stimmell the final version number of the application to be sent to the National FFA Organization.
- **July 15th, 2026, at 4 p.m. (tentative):** Ohio's representatives to the Big E Agriscience Fair will be notified.

General Information

The Ohio Agriscience Fair is open to all current dues paying FFA members in grades 7-12. 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). Displays are to reflect the current year's work only. Each chapter may submit up to two reports per division/category.

Pathway Determination

- Students need to select the primary pathway in which their research impacts.
 - Refer to pages 5-7 of the [National FFA Agriscience Fair Award Program Handbook](#) for guidance on pathway selection.

Pathways

There are six pathways:

- 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: Taste testing project should typically be in the Social Systems Category, not the Food Products and Processing.

Divisions

There are six divisions in the six pathways:

- 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.
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**Note: The written report in Divisions 1 and 2 have different requirements. Refer to the [National FFA Agriscience Fair Award Program Handbook](#) for details.

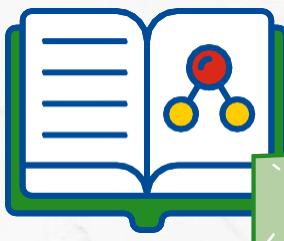
***Students who have previously exhibited at the National Agriscience Fair may NOT participate in the same Category/Division.

Important Changes

2027 Evaluation Season

- The National FFA Organization will be making significant changes to the Agriscience Fair Award Program for the 2027 Evaluation Season. Once these changes are confirmed by the National FFA, Ohio FFA will make the appropriate changes at the state level.

Steps to Complete an Agriscience Project



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.



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.



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.

1. ASK A QUESTION



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



3. DEVELOP A HYPOTHESIS

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



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.

Submitting the Application

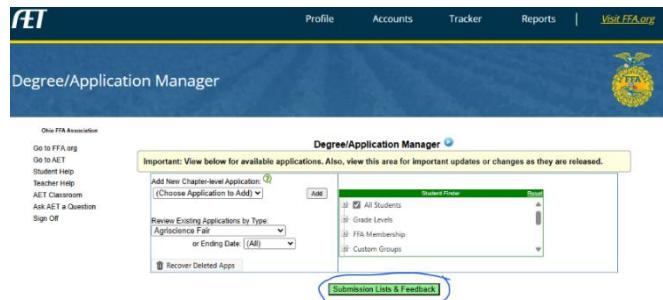
The pre-qualifying application is found in the student's AET account. From the home page, click on Reports -> Degree/Application Manager -> choose "Agriscience Fair" from the dropdown box and click "Add New." Click on the hyperlinked "Application" to the left of "Agriscience Fair" in the application 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'll 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 GREEN submission list process/button. 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. Teachers must add the correct Version # to the Green Submissions Link and Feedback section in AET. Please contact Jeffrey Stimmell (jeffrey.stimmell@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 template is an optional resource for students but may be screen shared. 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 the [Agriscience Fair webpage](#). 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 are highly encouraged to wear Official FFA Dress.

Interview Sample Questions:

1. How and why was the project selected?
2. What was your goal? What did you plan to accomplish in your project?
3. Were there any surprises in your project? How did you handle them?
4. What did you learn from the experience?
5. How much time did you devote to the project?
6. What kept you from being discouraged?
7. How did you manage time for this project in relation to your other activities?
8. How would you advise others doing a project? What is the value of completing an agriscience fair project?
9. How can your findings and conclusions be applied in the agriculture, food and natural resources industry?

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 the "Important Dates" section above. 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 FFA for prescreening. If, for some reason, the 1st place exhibitor withdraws from competition, 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 applications advancing to National FFA's prescreening are strongly encouraged to attend with project manuscript and application.

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 Award Program Handbook](#) must be followed. Projects that violate National FFA or Ohio FFA safety rules will be disqualified.