

# AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM

6/26/2017

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## Purpose:

The purpose of the Agriculture Issues Forum Career Development Event is to stimulate the study of and interest in agricultural issues among agricultural students and the "non-agricultural" public, as well as encourage local efforts by providing recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies as a result of instruction in issues analysis.

## Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity to expose a wide variety of students to the selection, research, planning and presentation of an agricultural issue.
- To acquire knowledge and skills in community leadership for present and future use.
- To become knowledgeable of and familiar with a variety of local, state, national and international issues facing agriculture.
- To understand the principles and fundamentals of agricultural issue analysis.
- To further the awareness of agricultural issues in the local community.
- To promote integration of agricultural issue analysis in local school academic subject matter areas.
- To promote career choices by providing an opportunity for individuals to become acquainted with professionals in the industry.
- To foster teamwork, leadership and communication skills.

## Common Core References:

### - 7th Grade

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2a** Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

### - 8th Grade

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.4** Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

### - 9th-10th Grade

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1a** Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

### - 11th-12th Grade

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.2** Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.

## Guidelines:

1. A minimum of three and a maximum of seven students who are actively participating, orally presenting and available to answer the judges' questions. Teachers/Advisors/Coaches are NOT allowed to assist their teams in any manner.
2. The event is open to two teams per chapter.
3. Each team will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level.
4. Eligibility of teams will be determined by local presentation of the Agricultural Issue.
5. Presentations may include official FFA dress, costumes, props, skits and other creative paraphernalia.
6. The issue will come from one of the following eight agricultural issues topics as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues instructional materials:
  - A. Environmental Issues
  - B. Agricultural Technology Issues
  - C. Animal Issues
  - D. Agricultural Career Issues
  - E. Economy and Trade Issues
  - F. Agricultural Policy Issues
  - G. Food Safety Issues
  - H. Biotechnology
7. The Portfolio should include items described below, and will be limited to ten pages maximum **not including cover sheet**. Five copies of the Portfolio must be received by the NM State FFA Office by the posted deadline.
  - A. A maximum of two pages of the portfolio will include a summary of the issue, answering the questions that are most relevant to the participant's topic:
    - \* List course(s) in which instruction occurred.
    - \* Why is this issue important now?
    - \* What is the nature of the issue?
    - \* Who is involved in the issue?
    - \* How can the issue be defined?
    - \* What is the historical background of the issue?
    - \* What caused the issue?
    - \* What are the risks?
    - \* What are the benefits?
    - \* Is there a strong disagreement on how the issue should be solved?

- B. A bibliography of all resources and references cited which may include personal interviews and other supporting material.
  - C. Documentation that 5 local forums occurred such as: Eligibility Statement, Letters from organizations, news articles and / or photos due at on-site contest registration.
  - D. If teams have given (5) required forums to appropriate groups they will receive full credit of 15 pnts. (Presentation of Issues to School Affiliations does not count as a documented forum.)
8. Time limits: Five minutes will be allowed for set up. The presentation will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The presenters will receive a signal at 10 minutes, 14 minutes and at 15 minutes the time keeper will announce that time is up and the presentation will end. A maximum of 7 minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. At the end of the 7 minutes, the time keeper will announce that time is up, and questions and answers will end.
9. Questions may be asked of all individuals of the presenting team.

**Scoring:**

- 1. Introduction, Pro, Con and Summary (20 points each, 80 points total)
- 2. Overall presentation: participation of each member of the team, quality and power of the presentations, creativity, stage presence. (20 points)
- 3. Questions (25 points)
- 4. Portfolio: 10 pages maximum (three parts, 25 points total)
  - \* Summary of the Issue, 2 pages maximum (5 points)
  - \* Bibliography ( 5 points)
  - \* Documentation of 5 local forums (15 points) \*\* *due at convention registration*\*\*
- 5. Judges' ranking will be used to place teams.
- 6. Tiebreakers: Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Team low ranks will be counted and the team with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the team's response to questions. The team with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists then the team's raw scores will be totaled. The team with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.
- 7. Only the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams from each district will be eligible for state competition.

## REFERENCES

\* This list of references is not intended to be inclusive. Other sources may be utilized and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

### **Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials,**

Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Updated Agricultural Instructional Materials located at:

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~peters/>

### **Global Vision Instructional Materials,**

Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

### **Agricultural Issues: Food Safety Video**

Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

### **Agricultural Issues: Ground Water Safety Video**

Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

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Team No: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter No : \_\_\_\_\_

## Team Presentation

	Possible Points	25 - 21	20 - 15	14 - 10	9 - 5	4 - 0
1. Introduction, Statement of the issue and its importance	20					
2. Pro View Point	20					
3. Con View Point	20					
4. Summary of Pro and Con	20					
5. Overall Presentation	20					
6. Questions	25					
7. Portfolio	25					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>150</b>					
Deduction for Presenting a Conclusion	( 5 )					( ____ )

**Team Presentation Total:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Team No: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter No: \_\_\_\_\_

The Portfolio should include items described in number six of the Guidelines, and is limited to ten pages single-sided (5 pages double-sided) maximum.

Five copies of the Portfolio must be sent to the NM State FFA Office by the posted deadline.

### Portfolio

	Possible Points	15 - 11	10 - 6	5 - 1
1. Summary of the Issue (2 pages maximum)	5			
2. Bibliography	5			
3. Local Forums	15			
Subtotal:	25			

<b>Team Sub Total:</b>
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\* Deduction for exceeding the maximum number of pages and incomplete cover page (10 points Max) :

<b>Deduction:</b> (            )
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<b>Total Score:</b>
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date