

MID-SOUTH FAIR AGRIBUSINESS/4-H SPEAKING CONTEST

The Mid-South Fair, Memphis is again providing an opportunity for 4-H members to use their public speaking skills to promote agriculture and to win some nice awards. Each state participating in the Mid-South Fair may enter three senior and four junior 4-H members in the contest to be held at the Mid-South Fair on September 20, 2008.

Rules & Regulations

1. The senior division is for 4-H members who are 14 years old and have not passed their 19th birthday as of January 1, 2008.
The junior division is for 4-H members who are 8 through 13 years old as of January 1, 2008.
(Contestants must have been in the 4th grade as of this date as well.)
2. Senior participants must choose one of the following topics:
 - A. Food Safety Who's Responsibility
 - B. Balancing Agriculture With Industry
 - C. Pesticides And Our Environment
 - D. Are U.S. Farmers Overburdened With Environmental Regulations?
 - E. The Future Of The Family Farm
 - F. OPEN TOPIC - Must Be Agriculture Related
3. Junior participants must choose one of the following topics:
 - A. Balancing Agriculture Production And Environmental Concerns
 - B. Affordable Food At What Cost?
 - C. America's Food - Safe And Good
 - D. Crop Protection Chemicals - Friend Or Foe?
 - E. OPEN TOPIC - Must Be Agriculture Related
4. Tennessee's finalists will be chosen by a panel of judges viewing the member presenting the speech on VHS video tape. In order to standardize judging when making the tape, the video cameras should be stationary (no close up shots or zoom lens should be utilized during taping). The camera should be far enough away to give a full length view of participant and to permit gestures and movement if appropriate to the speech. The video tape and case must be labeled with the member's name, county and speech title. The video is due in the state 4-H office no later than **August 15, 2008**.
5. A written (pen or typed) copy of the speech and an outline of the speech including a bibliography must be submitted with the video. A cover sheet should include the name, address, birth date, county and state of the participant and the division (junior or senior) in which they are entering. The speech must be factual and supported by at least three references listed in the bibliography.
6. Senior speeches must be at least 3 minutes and no more than 5 minutes in length. Junior speeches must be at least 2 minutes and no more than 3 minutes in length.

7. The speech must be factual and supported by at least three references listed in the bibliography.
8. The first place winner is not eligible to compete in the same division more than one time.
9. Awards for each division will be:
 First -- \$300 and plaque
 Second -- \$200 and plaque
 Third -- \$100 and plaque
10. **Finalist should be prepared to give their winning speech at the awards luncheon on Monday, September 22, 2008.**
11. Members participating in the activity at the Mid-South Fair will be expected to provide their own transportation and other expenses. There will be limited funds to apply to transportation and other expenses.

12. Judging Criteria

	<u>Points</u>
Written copy	15
Speech	45
Subject matter/composition	30
Results	<u>10</u>
Total	100

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Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
 University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
 UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.