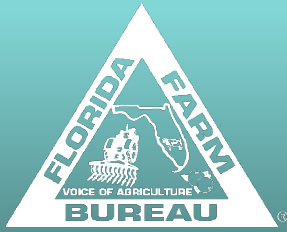


**2025**

**Florida Farm Bureau  
Federation's  
Youth Speech  
Contest**

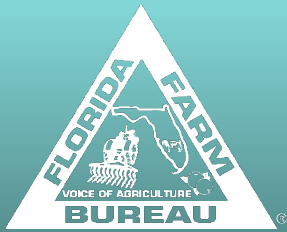
**Senior/Intermediate Division  
Rules and Information**



# 2025 Topic

**"What obstacles threaten Florida agriculture's economic viability, and how do we address them?"**





# Rules and Information

## **Background Information**

Each year, Florida Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Leadership Program sponsors a statewide Youth Speech Contest. The contest has three levels of competition: County, District, and State. The contest may also have two divisions, Senior and Intermediate, depending on the County and District. Please reach out to your County Farm Bureau office about the County and District contests available in your area. The winner of each county contest moves on to compete at the District level and the winner of each District goes on to the State contest at the FFBF Annual Meeting in October. There is currently no Intermediate Division at the State level.

The purpose of this contest is to promote a stronger interest and clearer understanding of the many aspects of agriculture, to provide opportunities for our youth to gain knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of agriculture, and help to promote agriculture's many values and virtues.

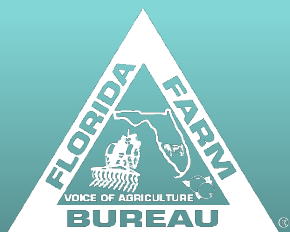
## **Qualifications**

Senior Division - any student who is at least 14 years of age, and not over 18 years of age as of September 26, 2025 (not having reached their 19th birthday).

Intermediate Division - any student who is at least 11 years of age, and not over 13 years of age as of September 26, 2025 (not having reached their 14th birthday).

Students must be a resident in the County of the sponsoring County Farm Bureau.

Membership in the County Farm Bureau is not a requirement, however, it is encouraged. Contestants must display a positive attitude about agriculture and the speech content must be in line with Farm Bureau policies.



# Rules and Information

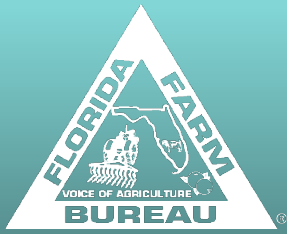
## Contest Format

Students must give a 5-minute speech on the specified topic. Each County Farm Bureau has discretion over their county contest but must follow the rules in this packet and their judges all use the same scoring rubric. County Farm Bureau's determine their own prizes. The winner of each County contest then moves on to compete at the District level. The Women's Leadership Committee member has discretion over the District contest but must follow the rules in this packet and the judges all use the same scoring rubric. The FFBF has designated prize money for the District and State level and there may be opportunity for additional prize money at the District level.

County and District Contests must be held prior to September 26, 2025. The FFBF State Office must receive the name of each Senior Division District winner, their application and a copy of their speech by 4:30pm on September 26, 2025, or the student will be ineligible for the State contest. Once the speech has been submitted to the state office, no changes can be made.

Senior Division District winners will then compete for the State award during Florida Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting on October 28, 2025. The student must be present at the State contest in order to compete. If the District winner is not available to compete, Districts may substitute the second place District winner. If this occurs, the first place District winner will forfeit their title. **Travel and lodging expenses to the State contest are the responsibility of the County Farm Bureau that they represent.**





# Rules and Information

## Rules

- Senior Division competitors must be at least 14 years of age and not over 18 years of age on or before September 26, 2025.
- Intermediate Division competitors must be at least 11 years of age and not over 13 years of age on or before September 26, 2025.
- Competitors must be a resident of the County they are representing.
- Previous State winners are not eligible to compete again.
- The competitor must prepare and present the speech personally.
- The competitor is not permitted to use any visual aids such as a PowerPoint presentation or poster.
- Speeches for both divisions must be 5 minutes in length +/-30 seconds. Short/long speeches will face point deductions.
- Each judge will individually rank the participants and then rankings from all judges will be averaged to determine the final placings.

## Prizes

Senior Division County winner(s) - determined by County Farm Bureau

Intermediate Division County winner(s) - determined by County Farm Bureau

Senior Division District winner - \$500

Intermediate Division District winner - \$100

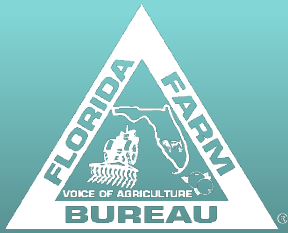
Senior Division State Finalists - \$100 and a plaque

Senior Division State Second Place - \$500 and a plaque

Senior Division State Winner - \$1000 and a plaque

# Scoring Rubric

Indicators	Strong evidence that indicators are present 5-4	Moderate evidence that indicators are present 3-2	Little evidence that indicators are 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total
<b>Oral Communication</b>						
<b>Examples</b>	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. Examples are original, logical and relevant.	Examples are usually concrete, sometimes need clarification. Examples are effective, but need more originality or thought.	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.		X5	
<b>Tone</b>	Appropriate tone is consistent. Speaks at the right pace to be clear, Pronunciation of words is very clear and apparent.	Appropriate tone is usually consistent. Speaks at the right pace most of the time, but shows some nervousness. Pronunciation of words is usually clear, sometimes vague.	Has difficulty using an appropriate tone. Pace is too fast; nervous. Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand; unclear.		X5	
<b>Command of Audience</b>	Speaker uses power of presentation to engage and captivate the audience with the message of speech.	Speaker presents speech as mere repeating of facts and speech comes across as a report.	Speaker lacks enthusiasm and power to deliver the speech.		X5	
<b>Non-Verbal Communication</b>						
<b>Attention</b>	Eye contact consistently used as an effective connection. Consistently looks at the audience.	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent.	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker.		X5	
<b>Mannerisms and Gestures</b>	Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. Gestures are purposeful and effective.	Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. Usually uses purposeful gestures.	Have mannerisms that pull from effectiveness of the presentation. Occasionally gestures are used effectively.		X5	
<b>Poise</b>	Speaker is extremely well poised. Poised and in control at all times.	Usually is well-poised. Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	Isn't always well-poised. Sometimes seems to lose composure.		X5	
<b>Speech Content</b>						
<b>Demonstrates Knowledge of Topic</b>	Speech shows thorough knowledge of the speech topic. Supports with strong evidence.	Speech shows some knowledge of the subject. Some evidence, but lacking in strength.	Speech shows little knowledge of the subject. Evidence is lacking to support the topic.		X10	
<b>Detail Oriented</b>	Is able to stay fully detail oriented. Always provides details which support topic.	Is mostly good at being detail oriented. Usually provides details which are supportive of topic.	Has difficulty being detail oriented. Little or no detail support is provided.		X10	
<b>Gross Total Points</b>						
<b>Time Deduction ( 5 points per 30 seconds over/under time)</b>						
<b>Net Total Points</b>						
<b>Rank</b>						



# 2025 Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Leader Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

***For County contests, please send this application directly to the County Farm Bureau. For the State contest, please send this form, along with a copy of your speech, to [Women.Leadership@ffbf.org](mailto:Women.Leadership@ffbf.org), by no later than September 26, 2025.***