

## **Texas Agriscience Fair Committee Report – 7-22-4**

The agriscience fair committee meeting was called to order at 1pm on Monday, July 22, 2024.

After the invocation, the meeting began with concerns and comments from each area.

Area 1 – Concerns with the contest being on Monday. This adds an additional cost to the schools who are bringing science fair students.

Area 2 – none

Area 3 – none

Area 4 – none

Area 5 – same issue with having the contest on Monday

Area 6 – none

Area 7 – Recommended to streamline the process to reduce the number of poor-quality projects that are sent to the actual judges and interviews. Proposal was to reduce the number to the top 4 to be interviewed.

Area 8 – none

Area 9 – Would like to see a submission confirmation for the upload of projects. Had schools who thought they had completed everything and did not get their project entered.

Area 10 – revisited concerns with plagiarism – was decided to follow policies implemented at nationals. It is not known how nationals will implement this.

Area 11 – none

Area 12 – recommended to move portions to degree check to help alleviate the large number of projects at convention.

Tammy Glascock reported there were 200+ entries, which was up from the previous year. There were 73 Gold Ranked, 65 Silver Ranked, 48 Bronze Ranked, and about 10 ranked as participants. Dr. Carraway discussed the difficulty of finding judges to grade both the paper and in-person interview. The issues which arose from the hurricane and the removal of the interview was discussed. There was no way to schedule 200+ interviews by zoom when some of the participants and judges did not have power. Tammy reported that national FFA was not going to extend the deadline for state submissions since we are already a week later than the rest of the state submissions.

After the concerns from each area were heard, the chairman, Dr. Carraway allowed time for state staff, Tammy Glascock to discuss changes being made to nationals for next year.

These proposed changes to the national level will have a direct impact on the Texas FFA contest and have not become official yet. There are documents on the National FFA website for those who wish to dive further into the changes likely being implemented.

Link -

<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/pee0a0ezfdqozco27k1ttxdq17t9f2h8/file/1592139212545>

A group was created to develop a rubric specific to the Gold, Silver, and Bronze rating for the committee to use in order to identify those Gold ranking projects which will advance to interviews.

After the discussion about the proposed national changes, the committee made the following recommendations to be presented to the board for implementation.

1. All papers will be submitted prior to Degree Check and will be ranked as Gold, Silver, and Bronze by the committee at Degree Check. Paper deadline will be May 21.
2. Three representatives from each area will be needed at Degree Check to help rank papers. This is a total of 36 teachers needed.
3. Only Gold rated papers will be submitted to the judges for scoring, and these Gold rated papers will be interviewed at the Texas FFA Convention.
4. Interviews are to be on the Tuesday of Convention

It should be noted that these recommendations are being made to the board and will not go into effect until after board approval.