

Agricultural Advocacy

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020

Event Details:

- Contestants can be in the same room for the presentation or individually participate in the event from a remote location.
- *2020 Rule Change:*
 - **Rule Addition:** One additional FFA member may serve as a non-presenting technician but WILL NOT answer questions. Such participation of a technician shall not impact participation scores and shall NOT be counted toward the total number of team members. The technician may operate a shared screen showing a PowerPoint, Google Presentation, etc., but this should not be the focus of the presentation. This individual is not counted as a member of the team and cannot count this as a participation on FFA Scholarship applications.
- **Option 1: Contestants present in the same room**
 - A central, **STATIONARY** device will be utilized to provide video of the contestants and to present any slide show/presentation created by the competing team.
 - The central device should be set up in a location where all participants can be seen on the screen. It is highly recommended that this is tested before the day of the contest.
 - A "plug and play" microphone is recommended if you are planning to utilize the audio input from this central device. This can be set up on a table in front of the participants to ensure quality sound. It is highly recommended to practice with your team using this arrangement prior to the contest.
 - If the audio from the central device is not planning to be used, the device should be muted. Each individual team member may join the virtual meeting and connect to audio in the meeting via a cellular phone with headphones that include a microphone. This will ensure that judges can hear each of the individual team members. It is highly recommended to practice with your team using this arrangement prior to the contest. Students may need to mute their individual device when not speaking.
- **Option 2: Contestants present separately from remote locations**
 - Each contestant should join the meeting from their own individual device with the camera displaying the contestant from the waist up.
 - It is recommended that the contestants join the meeting from a computer with a webcam for video, but connect to audio in the meeting via a cellular phone with headphones that include a microphone.
 - One team member will be charged with sharing any slide show/presentation created by the team from their device.
- In either of the above options, there will be no penalties assessed to teams/contestants for the use of a cellular phone and headphones during this event.
- If contestants are presenting in the same room, in close proximity, no penalties will be assessed for students choosing to wear personal protective equipment (i.e. face masks, face shield, gloves, etc.). The National FFA Board of Directors adopted a motion during their May meeting which allows for personal protective equipment to be worn with Official FFA Dress due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Area VII Rule Additions:**
 - **No team will be penalized for any background noise that is beyond their control (example: school bells ringing).**
 - **Teams will NOT be penalized for or for not wearing masks. Team members should follow school rules on wearing of masks.**

- **In the event that internet connectivity is lost for a reason that is beyond the students' control, the team will be given the opportunity to start their presentation again with no penalty.**