

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Superintendent: Dr. Kirsten Midkiff, UADA Animal Health Specialist

GUIDELINES

- The competition will begin at 1:00 pm on Friday, February 20th. Youth must be checked in by noon. Youth participating in other contests will be accommodated as best as contest officials can to allow participation in multiple events.
- Participants must give a speech related to the beef cattle industry. Topics may include areas of animal health and physiology, management, agribusiness or economics, meat science, human nutrition, resource management as it relates to cattle, etc. Speeches may be informative or persuasive.
- Contestants in the Junior and Intermediate age divisions will have three to five (3-5) minutes to present their speech.
- Contestants in the Senior age division will have five to eight (5-8) minutes to present their speech.
- Time penalties will be assessed on pitches falling outside of the time constraints. Time for additional questions from the judges will not be penalized.
- The speech must be the original work of the person giving the speech.
- Participants are expected to do research for their speeches and should include reference to factual information, along with personal opinion and experience.
- Participants are not allowed to use props or visual aids. No devices are allowed to be used by the presenter, including timing devices.
- Written manuscripts are not required.
- Note cards may be used. However, if this practice distracts from the overall effectiveness of the presentation, points may be deducted by the judges.
- Three judges will evaluate each youth. A timekeeper will record the official time for each speech. No time warnings will be given.

SCORING CRITERIA

Participants will be scored on a rubric evaluating the following criteria:

1. **Composition and Organization:** Knowledge and understanding of the topic, content organization, effective use of supporting evidence and resources, correct pronunciation and grammar
2. **Poise and Delivery:** Voice clarity, pace, appearance, poise, eye contact
3. **Overall Effectiveness:** Engages audience, persuades the listener
4. **Responses to Questions:** Organized thoughts, demonstration of subject knowledge