Career Program Area: Impromptu Speakers for Agriculture

Subject
A timely topic will be selected as it applies to each of the following subject areas:
1. Agricultural Power and Machinery
2. Animal Production
3. Crop Production
4. Forestry and National Resources
5. Horticulture
6. Agribusiness
7. Specialized Agriculture (subjects that do not fit into areas above)

Preparation
1. Preparation time will be 15 minutes. The starting time for preparation will be staggered to correspond with the order of appearance before the judges. Participants will either draw for their order of appearance or will be assigned time.
2. The use of reference materials will be prohibited. The participants will be free to develop the topic to the best of their ability. Notes may be used during the speech presentation. Participants will provide their own note cards.

Time Limits
1. Each speech will be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes in length. A ten point penalty will be assessed for each minute or major fraction thereof under or over the time limit. The timekeeper will indicate to the participant when the three minute mark has been reached.
2. Each participant will be allowed five minutes additional time to answer questions from the judges. The timekeeper will stop questioning when the five minute mark is reached.

Procedures

1. Participants will be assigned by the award program coordinator. If the participant does not meet at his/her assigned time, the participant forfeits participation unless previously arranged with the award program coordinator.
2. The Impromptu Speakers for Agriculture coordinator will introduce each speaker by name.
3. Note cards may be used. However, points will be deducted if the use of notes detracts from the speech's effectiveness.
4. Competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the award program. At least two judges will have an agricultural background. The judges will score each participating using the rating and comment sheet provided.
5. Each judge will ask questions of the participant. Questions will relate directly to the speaker's subject. The full five minutes for questions should be used.
6. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on delivery and questions. The timekeeper's records will be used to compute the final score. Each judge will then rank all participants. The winner will be the participant with the lowest total numerical rank by the judges. Scores calculated with the scoring rubric should reflect the ranking of contestants.
7. Should there be more than 20 participants, it is recommended that the award program be divided into two sections. Participants will draw to determine the section in which they will appear. Three additional judges, one additional timekeeper and two additional rooms will be required. Each section will select the top three participants to appear in the finals where all six judges will select the overall winners.

Performance Evaluation

Each participant will be evaluated on performance in the following areas:

- Appearance
- Voice
- Mechanics
- Platform Presence
- Effectiveness
- Response to Questions
- Organization
- Content

State Awards and Recognition will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.