**Pennsylvania State FFA Agriscience Fair**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Agriscience Fair is to recognize student researchers studying the application of agricultural scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises.

**General Information**

The State Agriscience Fair is held as a separate event. It is highly recommended that participants wear FFA Official Dress for their virtual interviews.

**Entry Components**

1. Complete online registration for Pennsylvania State AgriScience Fair via the Google Docs email link sent by the State FFA office. The due date will be March 15 of each year.
2. Application/Manuscript:
	1. Use the “Agriscience Fair” award application on theAET.com via the Chapter Degree/Application. You will save it as a PDF and in the Google share folder by March 15.
		1. Must have all the electronic signatures
		2. Students will log into their account to sign their name, the teacher has to also sign their name to approve, and the “research supervisor” signs as well (who can also be the advisor)
		3. Each person on a two‐member team must have their own FFA member ID
	2. Cover page from the National FFA Agriscience application form.
		1. Written Report ‐ The report should be printed on 8 1/2” x 11” white paper, 1” margins. Font size must be 12 using Arial, Courier or Times New Roman font. The project report template is required and is available on www.FFA.org/agrisciencefair by division. As developing student researchers, the expectations for the written report are slightly different for Divisions 1 and 2 (7th and 8th-grade students) compared to Divisions 3, 4, 5, and 6. Refer to the National FFA Agriscience Fair rules for more information.
3. Virtual Presentation Judging:
	1. Conducted in the month of April.
	2. Student(s) will sign up for a designated time for a live Zoom session when registering in March (Each participant or team will select three options for dates and times).
	3. While it is recommended to create a PowerPoint slide to be the “poster”, it is not required and will not be graded.
		1. Poster Display Boards are OPTIONAL.

**Eligibility Requirements**

1. Competition is open to all FFA members in grades 7‐12. There are six divisions.
* Division 1 ‐ individual member in grades 7 and 8
* Division 2 ‐ team of two members in grades 7 and 8
* Division 3 ‐ individual member in grades 9 and 10
* Division 4 ‐ team of two members in grades 9 and 10
* Division 5 ‐ individual member in grades 11 and 12
* Division 6 ‐ team of two members in grades 11 and 12

Grade is determined by the grade level of the member at the time of qualification at the state level. Teams can be made up of two students in different grades but will compete in the division in which the older participant would qualify. Team members must be from the same chapter at the time of qualification.

1. Categories of Participation (For description and examples refer to the National FFA Agriscience Guidelines):
* Animal Systems (AS)
* Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems (ENR)
* Food Products and Processing Systems (FPP)
* Plant Systems (PS)
* Power, Structural and Technical Systems (PST)
* Social Systems (SS)

**Event Guidelines**

1. All rules, project components, and judging criteria set forth by the National FFA Organization for the National FFA Agriscience Fair will apply to the Pennsylvania FFA Agriscience Fair. Any rule change at the national level will supersede any state policy.
2. All National FFA rules and policies concerning animal care, human subjects, safety, etc. will apply to the State FFA Agriscience Fair. All necessary forms that are required by National FFA will also be required at the State Level.
3. Each member and/or team may enter only one project. A team is a maximum of two members working cooperatively on the same project. Successive year projects must indicate change or growth in the project from the previous year(s) in their logbooks.   Displays are not required, but if used can only reflect the current year's work.
4. Extension of Agriscience Fair Projects – The completion of a research project can generate additional research questions that are worthy of investigation. Participants will have the opportunity to conduct this additional research as long as the current year’s project could not have been done without what was learned from the past year’s research. This project would now be considered an extension project for the competition.
5. All participants are required to meet virtually with the judges to explain their projects. Explanation and questioning may not exceed 15 minutes. The interview is an opportunity for judges to ask questions about the project. A team project must be presented by a team of two. If only one team member is present, the team cannot rank higher than fourth overall. Judges will ask questions to determine the extent of the knowledge gained, your understanding of your project, how it relates to your SAE and possibly how your project relates to other FFA activities.
* The following is a list of example questions that may be asked:
	+ How and why was the project selected?
	+ What was your goal? What did you plan to accomplish in your project?
	+ Were there any surprises in your project? How did you handle them?
	+ What did you learn from the experience?
	+ How much time did you devote to the project?
	+ What kept you from being discouraged?
	+ How did you manage time for this project in relation to your other activities?
	+ How would you advise others doing a project? What is the value of completing an agriscience fair project?
	+ How can your findings and conclusions be applied in the agriculture, food, and natural resources industry?
* Interview schedule will be released 7 days prior to the start of the first interview.
	+ Students with conflicts may not be able to change his/her scheduled time. Please contact Pennsylvania State FFA AgriScience Chair if you have conflicts, and the person will try to accommodate the change. If they are not able to participate in the interview, the participant/team will receive a zero for that portion of the event.
	+ Substitutions are not permitted.
1. Exhibited projects and project reports shall be the result of the student(s) own efforts.
2. The first‐place exhibitor(s) in each division of the six categories will earn the right to represent Pennsylvania at the National Agriscience Fair; if the 1st place person or team declines to participate in the national competition by May 1st, the 2nd place person or team may represent the state at the national level.

**Awards**

* The top projects, per Division and Category, will receive a plaque and be recognized during the State FFA Convention. Depending on sponsor availability students may receive a cash award. If a student (s) research project is named a national finalist and the member is traveling to the National FFA Convention & Expo, they will be provided a travel stipend for participation, similar to the other Pennsylvania FFA CDE/LDE award representatives.
* Awards are sponsored by cooperating industry sponsors as a special project and/or by the general fund of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation.