

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT RULES

AGRONOMY CONTEST

I. PURPOSE

The Southwest District Agronomy contest is designed to create interest and promote understanding in agronomic sciences by providing opportunities for youth recognition through the demonstration of knowledge and skills.

II. SCORING

Identification 240 points	Novice & Junior
Placing Classes 150 points	Novice & Junior
Insect Identification 120 points	Novice & Junior
Seed Tag Activity 40 points	Junior Only

III. EVENT FORMAT

A. Team Make-up

Three or four individuals per county form a team. All four members will be scored and the top three scores will count towards the team total of 2 teams per county. Novice members will complete areas, which include (Identification, placing classes and insect identification). Junior members will complete areas, which include: (Identification, placing classes, insect identification and seed tag activity).

B. AREAS OF AGRONOMY TO BE STUDIED

1. Identification – 240 points (48 specimens at 5 points each)

Youth will identify 20 plant specimens, 20 seed specimens, and 8 farm equipment specimens. Ideally, the plants should be live specimens and can represent any stage of development. However, press mounts or photographs can be used. Plant specimens must be real seed, no photographs of seeds.

Seed specimens should be equally divided between crop and weed seeds. Specimens can only come from the ID lists provided. Each specimen will be worth five points.

2. Placing classes – 150 points (3 classes at 50 points each)

There will be three placing classes each having four samples. Youth will rank the four samples in proper order based on quality, uniformity, and shelf life of each sample. One class will be representative of each of the following categories; grain crops (seed samples), forage crops (loose or bailed hay or green chop), and fruit or vegetable crops (fruits, berries, leaves, tubers etc.). Class specimens will only be chosen from the provided “Crops ID List”.

3. Insect Identification – 120 points (5 specimens totaling 24 points each)

This component will consist of identifying insects. Live insects, mounts or photographs can be used. Additionally, students will have to identify characteristics related to the individual insect. Students will identify five insects (8 points each) along with the following characteristics for each insect identified:

- a. Life cycle of each specimen (8pts.)
- b. Mouth part (8pts.)

4. Seed Tag Activity 40 points (5 questions at 8 points apiece totaling 40 points) (Juniors Only) Questions will be developed from any seed tag (for example) point of origin, harvest date, germination rate, whether or not noxious seed in present, etc.

Resources are available on the:

NM FFA website (www.nmffa.org/cdes.html) under Agronomy CDE, New Mexico State University Publications or Local County Extension Agent.