

# Essay Contest

**"Virginia Agriculture=Safe, Healthy Food"**



## Essay Contest Rules

Sponsored by: VFBF Women's Committee

### Purpose

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The purpose of the contest is to provide an opportunity for young people to promote the importance of agriculture and define the future of this industry.

### Qualifications:

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- The contest is for all children in the defined age groups.
  - JUNIOR ESSAY THEME: "Virginia Agriculture=Safe, Healthy Food"  
The Junior Essay must contain 200 words or more.  
Eligible participants are Third, Fourth & Fifth graders  
See Junior Essay Prompt on page 4.
  - SENIOR ESSAY THEME: "Virginia Agriculture=Safe, Healthy Food"  
The Senior Essay must contain 400 words or more.  
Eligible participants are Sixth, Seventh and Eighth graders  
See Senior Essay Prompt on page 3.

### Judging Criteria:

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- Judging is based on originality of thought, method of expression, neatness, correct spelling and sentence structure.
- The County Farm Bureau is responsible in determining county winner. Essays are to be first submitted to the **county Farm Bureau** for preliminary judging
- The county's winning essay, in each age group category, will be entered into competition with winning entries from other county Farm Bureaus and **submitted no later than June 30 to the Women & Young Farmers Department** at the state office.
- Past state essay winners are not eligible to compete again in the same age category.
- It is preferred the essay be typewritten or word-processed.
- A contest entry form **MUST** accompany each essay. Failure to follow contest rules will result in disqualification of county contestant.
- The child's name and county **MUST** be included on the essay.  
**Participating schools are to select one winner from each class and submit the winning entry to their local county Farm Bureau.** (County Farm Bureaus are listed of the Farm Bureau website [www.vafarmbureau.org](http://www.vafarmbureau.org))

**Contest open to Virginia County Farm Bureau members and/or Virginia residents.**

### Awards:

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Recognition of winners on the county level will be the responsibility of the county Farm Bureau.

The state junior and senior winners, will receive the following:

- ◆ They will be invited to the VFBF Women's Conference in March to present their winning essay. (one night lodging will be covered by Virginia Farm Bureau for winner and one guest).
- ◆ A cash award of \$100
- ◆ A certificate of recognition
- ◆ Winner will be notified by e-mail or mail

**Complete application form on page 2**

**Page 1 of 4**

# Essay Contest Year \_\_\_\_\_

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## ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership Number if Farm Bureau member: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ M F Birth date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  Jr. Essay (Grades 3, 4 & 5)  Sr. Essay (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

Please provide a 5-7 line biography:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent's signature and permission to enter into contest*

*(Submit Essay to county Farm Bureau office **prior** to deadline for signature by  
Women's Committee Chair or County Farm Bureau President.)*

*Submission deadline is **June 30** to the **state office***

*(County Farm Bureaus are listed on our Farm Bureau Web site*

*[www.vafarmbureau.org](http://www.vafarmbureau.org))*

*(See front of page for more details)*

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For office use only:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Chairman or representative signature*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Virginia Farm Bureau Essay Contest

## Senior Essay Prompt

Write about why you believe the theme of this contest to be true. Be specific and include as many supporting details as possible.

### CHECKLIST FOR WRITERS

\_\_\_\_\_ I planned my paper before writing it.

\_\_\_\_\_ I revised my paper to be sure that

\_\_\_\_\_ the introduction captures the reader's attention;

\_\_\_\_\_ the central idea is supported with specific information and

\_\_\_\_\_ examples that will be interesting to the reader;

\_\_\_\_\_ the content relates to my central idea;

\_\_\_\_\_ ideas are organized in a logical manner;

\_\_\_\_\_ my sentences are varied in length;

\_\_\_\_\_ my sentences are varied in the way that they begin;

\_\_\_\_\_ the conclusion brings my ideas together.

\_\_\_\_\_ I edited my paper to be sure that

\_\_\_\_\_ correct grammar is used;

\_\_\_\_\_ words are capitalized when appropriate;

\_\_\_\_\_ sentences are punctuated correctly;

\_\_\_\_\_ words are spelled correctly; and

\_\_\_\_\_ paragraphs are clearly indicated.

\_\_\_\_\_ I checked my paper.

Essays will be scored using the 6+1 writing rubric.

[http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson\\_images/lesson398/rubric-essay2.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson398/rubric-essay2.pdf)

Student Name:

# Virginia Farm Bureau Essay Contest

## Junior Essay Prompt

Write about why you believe the theme of this contest to be true. Be specific and include as many supporting details as possible.

### CHECKLIST FOR WRITERS

- \_\_\_\_\_ I planned my paper before writing it.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ I revised my paper to be sure that
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the central idea of your paper is clear;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the central idea of my paper is elaborated;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ everything in my paper talks about my central idea;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ my paper is logically organized so readers will understand my message;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ my words and information make my paper interesting to readers; and
  - \_\_\_\_\_ my sentences make sense, sound like me, and read smoothly.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ I edited my paper to be sure that
  - \_\_\_\_\_ I used good grammar;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ I used capital letters and punctuation marks correctly;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ I made my spelling correct; and
  - \_\_\_\_\_ I let my readers know where I started new paragraphs.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ I checked my paper to make sure that it is the way that I want readers to read it.

Essays will be scored using the 6+1 writing rubric.

[http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson\\_images/lesson398/rubric-essay2.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson398/rubric-essay2.pdf)