

WVFB FLORA & DENVER TURNER MEMORIAL YOUTH SPEECH CONTEST - 2026

PURPOSE

- To promote a stronger interest and clearer understanding of the many aspects of agriculture.
- To provide opportunities for our youth to gain knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of agriculture, and help to promote its many values and virtues.

SPEECH TOPIC

Each contestant may choose from one of the general areas including current subjects on an agricultural nature which may include agribusiness, animal systems, plant systems, environmental services, food products and processing, natural resource systems, biotechnology systems and power, and structural and technical systems.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Any student who is at least 14 years old and has not reached their 19th birthday by October 14, 2026.
- Students must be a resident of the sponsoring county FB.
- Membership in the FB is not a requirement.
- Previous state 1st place winners are ineligible to participate.
- Contestants may use notes if needed, but judges may deduct if contestant appears to be reading portions of their speech.
- County 1st place winner will compete in the state competition held in November during the WVFB Annual Meeting. If the county 1st place winner cannot attend, then the 2nd or 3rd place winner may compete.

COMPETITION DEADLINES

Please contact your county FB for the county contest competition info.

County Contact: _____

STATE DEADLINE: *October 14, 2026*

SUGGESTIONS FOR GENERAL CONTEST PROCEDURES & JUDGING

COUNTY COMPETITION

Each county Farm Bureau is encouraged to conduct a competition for interested students. These competitions should be held by October 14, 2026. For assistance, county Farm Bureaus can consult with West Virginia Farm Bureau staff to arrange the County Competitions. Early promotion of the contest in area schools allows some students to use the project in their regular school program. Areas to consider would include 4-H, FFA, English and Speech Departments. County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to promote the contest through their county newsletter and local newspapers.

Awards: County awards will be determined by the sponsoring county.

STATE COMPETITION

The county winners will compete during the West Virginia Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in November 2026.

1) Speech Content (50 Percent)

The research and effort spent in the preparation of the speech will convey the participant's degree of knowledge, organization, and accuracy of the subject.

2) Speech Delivery (50 Percent)

Contestants will be judged on their appearance, projection to the audience, fluency, articulation and voice control.

CAUTION: The time limit is 5-7 minutes. A point will be deducted for each 30 seconds +/- this time limit.

Awards: 1st Place Winner - \$750* up to 4 years/3.0 GPA
 2nd Runner-up - \$450
 3rd Runner-up - \$300

Flora & Denver Turner Memorial Youth Speech APPLICATION

2026 TOPIC: Each contestant may choose from one of the general areas including current subjects on an agricultural nature which may include agribusiness, animal systems, plant systems, environmental services, food products and processing, natural resource systems, biotechnology systems and power, and structural and technical systems.

RULES: Speech limit 5-7 minutes
Must prepare and perform speech in-person
Must be a resident of the sponsoring county FB
Must be at least 14 years old and have not reached your 19th birthday before October 14, 2026.

Contestant Name

Parent (Guardian) Name

Street Address

City

County

Telephone

Age

Grade

School

Speech Title

2026 West Virginia Farm Bureau



Flora & Denver Turner Memorial Youth Speech Competition

Sponsored by the WVFB Women's Leadership
Committee, & the Turner Family