

## 2017 Ag Day Essay Contest

Official Topic: "Agriculture: Food For Life"

### General Rules

- Contestants must compose an original written essay with limited guidance from adults, teachers, or agricultural industry professionals. Interviews with industry professionals are acceptable research; input beyond research is unacceptable.
- Your essay may be published or duplicated, along with the author's name, without payment to the author.
- All entries must be received at the **WV Department of Agriculture office in Moorefield by midnight, November 30, 2016.**

### Qualifications for Contestants

- The contest is open to students in grades 6 through 8 in the 2015-2016 school-year. The contestant must be a U.S. citizen.

### Rules

- Entries must begin with a title page containing the following: official topic, "Agriculture: Food For Life", number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, date of birth, school name and grade.
- Essays must be typed, double-spaced.
- Essays must contain 450 words or less. Every word is counted. This does not include the bibliography, footnotes identifying non-original material or title and author information.
- Each page of the essay must be numbered, starting with the first page of the essay, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
- Essays must be written in English.
- The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner with the title page on the top.
- All essays must be accompanied by an entry form that is completed in its entirety. An entry form is attached or can be downloaded at [www.wvagriculture.org](http://www.wvagriculture.org). Entry forms and essays must be received by **midnight, November 30, 2016** and sent to:

**West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
Attn: Cindy Shreve  
60B Moorefield Industrial Park Road  
Moorefield, WV 26836**

### **Judging**

- Judging will be completed by a panel of qualified judges made up of representatives from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and various other experts from the agriculture industry.
- In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and the first page of the essay before the title page is removed.

### **Scoring**

- Material Organization (logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 40 points
- Vocabulary and Style (phrasing and continuity): 25 points
- Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 25 points
- Visual Esthetics: 25 points

### **Penalties**

- Automatic 5 point deduction for any of the following
  - Failure to identify total number of words
  - Failure to stay within the 450-or-less word limit
  - Failure to double space

The first place entry will be notified via phone in late December/early January. The winner will be honored in Charleston at WV's Agriculture Day at the Legislature on February 22, 2017.