

2010 Ag Day Essay Contest

In recognition of National Ag Week – March 14-20 & National Ag Day – March 20, 2010

Theme: “American Agriculture: Abundant, Affordable. AMAZING.”

Whatcom County Farm Bureau, Whatcom Farm Friends, The Lynden Tribune and Country Financial recognize the valuable contributions our community may offer to help our nation’s food, fiber and energy systems stay strong. We look forward to seeing your opinions and ideas about American agriculture.

Whatcom County’s Contest is modeled after the National Contest. “This year, the theme highlights the importance of agriculture and how the industry continues to overcome new challenges. These include keeping food affordable, meeting the demands of a growing population with fewer acres, working with legislative influences and addressing consumer concerns. You may choose to specifically address one or more of these challenges in your essay. Agriculture has a touch point in each of our lives and is an amazing industry.”

Section I – General Rules

1. The 2010 Ag Day Essay Contest is divided into three levels of competition:
 - a. Grades 7-9 - maximum 300 words
 - b. Grades 10-12 - maximum 450 words
 - c. Adult – beyond High School – maximum 500 words
2. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others.
3. Whatcom Farm Bureau and/or Whatcom Farm Friends have the right to publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered in the contest without payment to the author.
4. All entries must be **received by Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. - March 2, 2010.**

Section II – Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to Whatcom County students in grades 7 through 12 in the 2009-2010 school year, and to Adults – beyond High School age. Contestants must meet all requirements to compete.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one essay entry during any given year.

Section III – Contest Rules

1. Participants’ subject must be on the official theme. The total number of words must be listed on the top of the Contest Application Form.
2. Completed Contest Application must be attached to each essay.
3. Essays may be handwritten (neatly and legibly) or type-written, double-spaced.
4. Essays must contain no more than 300 words in the Grades 7-9 contest, no more than 450 words in the Grades 10-12 contest, and no more than 500 words in the Adult contest. Every word of the

essay is counted. This does not include the bibliography, footnotes identifying non-original material or title.

5. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with the first page of the essay, not the Application page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
6. Any quotation or copyrighted materials used in the essay must be properly identified using a bibliography. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
7. No contestant identifying reference can be made in the essay.
8. Essay must be written in English.
9. Essay must be mailed or e-mailed with the application form. If mailed, the entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.
10. All entry forms and essays should be received by Tuesday - 10:00 am – March 2, 2010, and sent by mail or e-mail to:
2010 Ag Day Essay Contest
c/o Whatcom Farm Friends
1796 Front Street
Lynden, WA 98264
e-mail: **cdehaan@wcfarmfriends.com**
11. The Essay Contest Chair will decide all protests in conformity with the contest rules.
12. The decision of the contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized.

Section IV – Judging and Timing

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of qualified judges made up of representatives from the sponsoring organizations and experts from the agriculture industry.
2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the essay contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the Application page and the first page of the essay.

Section V – Scoring of Contest - Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.

1. Material Organization (logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to theme): 40 points
2. Vocabulary and Style (phrasing and continuity): 25 points
3. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points
4. Neatness: 10 points
5. Adherence to Contest Rules (prepared in the proper format): 5 points

Section VII – Awards

1. Grades 7-9 - \$100 First Place and \$25 Runner-up Awards
2. Grades 10-12 - \$100 First Place and \$25 Runner-up Awards
3. Adult – beyond High School age - \$100 First Place and \$25 Runner-up Awards
4. Winners will be recognized by having their essays published in the Lynden Tribune.
5. Winning Essays and winners photos may be displayed at the Farming For Life! Exhibit in the Mt. Baker Rotary Building during the August 16-21, 2010 Northwest Washington Fair.