



SPEECH CONTEST



SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

8:00 - 10:00 AM

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION SPEECH CONTEST

The National Farmers Union Speech Contest will take place on March 9th at the 122nd anniversary convention. Speeches will begin at 8:00 AM and conclude prior to the official start of the NFU convention. Prior to the contest, contestants will be assigned a time to arrive at the speech area and a set time to deliver their speech to the judges.

CONTEST RULES AND PROCEDURES

- Contestants shall be Farmers Union members in good standing between the ages of 18 and 40 years of age.
- Farmers Union state staff are eligible to compete. National Farmers Union staff and board members are not eligible to compete.
- Contestants shall enter in only one category.
- Prepared speech contestants are required to have one list of references/sources to cite the information they plan to share during the speech. Points will be deducted if a list is not provided.
- Copies of the speeches are not required.
- Contestants will enter the room individually and speak before the three judges. No one else is allowed in the room at any time.
- Speeches should range from 4-6 minutes in length. Points will be deducted for speeches less than 4 minutes in length. Contestants who speak for longer than 6 minutes will be asked to stop by judges. A timer will be available to contestants.
- Notecards or a full page of notes are acceptable to use as references during the speech.
- Contestants will be required to answer speech-related questions. The maximum five-minute question period will consist of questions determined by the panel of judges.
- The judges panel will be made up of local agriculture professionals. Farmers Union state and national staff and leadership are not eligible to be judges.
- Contestants must complete a registration form to compete.

[Registrations will close on Friday, March 7th at 12:00 pm Eastern.](#)

CATEGORIES

Prepared Speech - Participants will deliver a prepared speech on one of the following topics:

National Farmers Union - Participants may speak on the history or current activities of their state division/NFU and its fight to support agriculture and farming communities through legislation, cooperation, and educational opportunities.

Agribusiness - Participants may choose any issue dealing with any topic such as cooperatives, value-added products, sales, service, traditional/non-traditional entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, advertising, economic development, etc.

Ag Policy - Participants may speak on laws, regulations, or legislation for any agricultural issue. Participants may also choose any topic that deals with consumer awareness, literacy and advocacy programs, social media, food security, trade, tariffs, climate change, animal rights/welfare, etc.

Extemporaneous Speech - Participant topics will include subjects from the following categories: agricultural literacy and advocacy, current agricultural issues, advancing agriculture through agricultural science, current technology uses and applications in agriculture, agri-marketing and international agriculture, and food and fiber systems.

CONTEST AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

A winner and runner-up will be chosen from each category. These individuals will be recognized during the membership awards program on Monday morning at 8:00 am. Cash scholarships will be awarded in the amounts listed below:

Category winner: \$250

Category runner-up: \$100

QUESTIONS?

Questions about the contest? Contact NFU membership director Abby Perdue at aperdue@nfudc.org

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER