

2019 Farm-City State Video Contest

The Alabama Farm-City Committee is excited once again to offer a Video Contest for high school students in the 9th through 12th grades. The contest is sponsored by Alabama Farmers Cooperative and complements the Farm-City poster and essay contests by providing students another channel to express their creativity. The 2018 theme for all three contests is **“Keep Alabama Growing.”**

How do agriculture and forestry “Keep Alabama Growing?”

Besides the obvious answers related to production of food and fiber and preservation of green space, this year’s Farm-City Week theme provides hints to the contributions agriculture and forestry make to the state’s economy, workforce, nutrition and society.

American Farm Bureau Federation recently released its Feeding the Economy study, which showed Alabama’s agriculture and food industries account for more than 312,000 direct jobs; \$8 billion in wages; \$34.7 billion in economic output; \$8.3 billion in business taxes; and \$551.6 million in exports. When indirect jobs are counted, employment jumps to more than 579,000, and output exceeds \$83.8 billion.

These impacts demonstrate how agriculture and forestry play an important role in Alabama’s vitality, despite declining farm numbers. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture released this year, the state’s total number of farms declined to about 40,000, a loss of 2,600 farms since 2012. Total land in farms also was down slightly. Meanwhile, the market value of crops and livestock increased.

In short, fewer farmers are producing more food and fiber on less land with fewer inputs. They’re helping to “Keep Alabama Growing.”

Agriculture and forestry contribute to our health, nutrition and comfort. Alabama farmers provide food and fiber for children and families here and around the world. From fresh produce at local farmers markets to lean beef, pork, poultry and catfish, Alabama grows a bounty of wholesome foods. The state’s fields yield grain, soybeans and forage for feed; fluffy white cotton for clothing and linens; and flowers, shrubs and sod to beautify homes and businesses.

Farmers also keep Alabama’s natural resources growing. They provide habitat for woodland creatures, wetlands for waterfowl, and forestland for hunting, recreation, timber and more. Modern agricultural practices conserve water and reduce erosion. Precision agriculture also uses less fertilizer, fuel and pesticides while improving soil health.

The high-tech world of farming speaks to another contribution agriculture and forestry make to our society. For centuries, farms have been incubators for innovation. The innate ingenuity, independence and resilience of farmers fuels development of new products and practices.

Farmers also “Keep Alabama Growing” through their values and service. Faith, family, citizenship, stewardship and being a good neighbor are as common in agriculture and forestry as tractors and trucks.

Whether students focus on the economic and environmental impacts of farmers or the diversity and innovation in agriculture, they’re sure to discover many ways farming and forestry “Keep Alabama Growing.”

Resources:

<https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/>

<https://feedingtheeconomy.com>

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org>

<http://alfafarmers.org>

<https://www.agfoundation.org>

The contest is sponsored by the Farm-City Committee of Alabama, P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191-0001, in cooperation with Alabama Ag in the Classroom and Alabama Farmers Cooperative. More information for teachers and students is available online at www.AlfaFarmers.org, www.AlabamaAITC.org and www.AgEducate.org or by contacting your local Alabama Cooperative Extension System office.

State winners in the poster, essay and video contests will be featured in the Alabama Farm-City Committee's 2021 Farm-City Calendar.

Eligibility and Rules

Entry is open to ninth through twelfth graders. A \$300 cash prize will be awarded to the first-place winner at the state level, and his or her school will receive a matching award. The second-place state winner will receive \$200, as will his or her school.

The presentation must be created in video form and must relate to theme. Images, audio and narration may be included, but all components must be packaged with the video. The presentation should be 2-3 minutes in length and should not require live narration (by the viewer.)

Each student must complete the information form and submit it with their entry link.

The presentations will be judged on the following: content, adherence to theme, accuracy of information, appearance, originality, and production.

The presentation must be uploaded to YouTube.com and a link to the video included on the online application form that can be found at www.AlabamaFarmCity.org.

Students are responsible for ensuring their project is copyright compliant and for obtaining any necessary usage or reproduction rights for music, images, videos or voice content. Photos and videos do not have to be original to the student, but majority of imagery should be reflective of Alabama agriculture. Royalty free images are available on the Alabama Farmers Federation's Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/alabamafarmers> and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/144363278@N06/>.

All entries will be judged first at the county level. The first-place winner in each county must be submitted to the Alabama Farm-City Committee by the deadline. **One entry per county may be submitted for judging at the state level.**

Deadline for entry at the state level is February 7, 2020. Winners will be notified by mail no later than March 6, 2020. Award winners will be announced at the Farm-City Awards Luncheon and Program in Birmingham on April 2, 2020. All entries may be used at the discretion of the Alabama Farm-City Committee without further permission or monetary consideration.