

State Judging Rubric

Scoring: 1 = Needs Work | 2 = Developing | 3 = Strong | 4 = Outstanding

Category	1	2	3	4	Score
Connection to Agriculture & Mission	Weak or unclear agricultural link.	Some relevant ideas but limited understanding.	Clear, accurate agricultural theme.	Deep, meaningful connection showing personal or societal insight.	
Story Quality & Content	Unclear or lacks focus.	Some development but uneven.	Clear, engaging, and organized.	Compelling, creative, and well-developed.	
Creativity & Voice	Little originality or emotion.	Some unique ideas.	Expressive and engaging.	Distinctive, imaginative, and memorable.	
Clarity & Readability	Hard to follow; frequent errors.	Understandable but inconsistent.	Clear and polished.	Exceptionally clear and professional.	
Overall Impact	Minimal engagement.	Some engagement.	Engaging and relevant.	Powerful, memorable, and mission-aligned.	

Total: /20 points

Regional judges can focus mainly on the first three categories to identify strong entries efficiently.
State judges should apply all five categories to choose top stories for publication.