

Memorandum

To: FFA Middle School Ag Challenge Students

CC: Naomi Knight

From: Kelcey Trewin, Contest Superintendent

Date: 1/16/2020

Re: Middle School Ag Challenge Event

The 2020 Maryland State FFA Middle School Ag Challenge Leadership Development Event will take place April 4th at Westminster High School beginning at approximately 10 a.m. The contest will conclude around 12 noon. The event will feature the following elements as per the Maryland FFA Middle School Ag. Challenge contest guidelines which can be found on the Maryland FFA Website under CDE_LDE Resources. A break down of the scoring can be found below.

Vertical farms will be scored out of a total of 70 points of the following.

- Structure (10 points)
 - No Taller than 2 feet
 - Base should be 9"x9"
 - Building should be smaller than the base for space to "landscape"
 - Minimum of three levels
- Growing Area (10 points)
 - Minimum of three different crops
 - Plants should be Labeled and showing
 - Planting beds
 - A plant should be planted in a suitable container
- Public Area Building (5 points)
 - Develop a space for the public to come in and purchase or pick up food. Consider things like:
 - Co-op
 - Food bank
 - Restaurant
 - Farmers market
- Power (10 points)
 - Label your power sources
 - How will your farm generate energy. Consider
 - Wind energy
 - Water power
 - Solar energy
- Water (10 points)
 - Irrigation system Showing and labeled
 - Where will the water for your building come from?
 - A type of collection system should be featured and labeled
- Exterior Landscape (10 points)
 - Hardscape
 - Walkways, benches, building sign

- Softscape
 - Trees, shrubs, flowers
- Creativity (5 points)
- Overall Effectiveness of Project (5 points)
- Artist Statement (5 points)

The Vertical farm should be created prior to the event and brought for presentation on the day of Spring Judging

Students will be scored on their oral presentation for a total of 30 points. This will occur during the Middle school Ag Challenge. Presenters, either individual or in partners, will present their vertical farm to the judges. Students should be sure to highlight each of the scoring criteria of their vertical farm listed above. The oral presentation will be scored based on their pace, tone, volume, eye contact, gesture, poise, and knowledge of the subject.

For additional Questions please feel free to reach out to kelcey.trewin@gmail.com .

Kelcey Trewin

Middle School Ag Challenge Superintendent