

St. Clair County Farm-City Essay Contest Rules

2026 Theme: America's 250: Founded by Farmers

1. Division 1 - open to students in grades 7-9
2. Division 2 - open to students in grades 10-12
3. All entries will be judged first at the county Farm-City Committee level. Submissions are due December 4, 2026. First through third prize winners will be announced by December 20, 2026. Awards will be presented to winners at the St. Clair County Farm-City Banquet on January 14, 2026 at the St. Clair County Arena in Odenville, AL.
4. All essays must relate to the theme. The name of the theme must be stated in the essay, "America's 250: Founded by Farmers"
5. Each student is required to complete the information form and attach it to the essay entry.
6. First place winners on the county level will be submitted to the state level by the St. Clair County Farm-City Committee. If participants place on a state level, winners will be notified by mail no later than March 1, 2027. Award winners on the state level will be announced at the state 2027 Farm-City Awards Luncheon.
7. Criteria
 - a. Content
 - i. Topic Sentence
 - ii. Adherence to theme
 - iii. Accuracy of information
 - iv. Supporting details
 - v. Originality
 - vi. Reader appeal
 - b. Mechanics
 - i. Grammar

- ii. Punctuation
- iii. Sentence structure
- iv. Capitalization
- v. Spelling
- c. Organization
- i. Clarity
- ii. Flow of material
- iii. Conclusion

8. Compliance with enclosed Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy is required.

All entries may be used at the discretion of the Ag in the Classroom Steering Committee and Farm-City Committee of Alabama without further permission or monetary consideration.

Prizes at the County Level

7-9th grade student and teacher, 10-12th grade student and teacher

1st place: \$100 each

2nd place: \$75 each

3rd place: \$50 each

2026 Farm-City Essay Contest

(Please fill out the entire form and submit to pamscout@gmail.com)

Date: _____ Grade: _____

County: St. Clair County Age: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Home Address: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Teacher Email: _____

2026-2027 Alabama Farm-City Artificial Intelligence Policy - Student Contests

July 1, 2026

The Alabama Farm-City Committee recognizes the increasing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, creativity and communication. To preserve fairness, originality and ethical standards in all

contests, the following policies apply to all student contest entries.

General Guidelines:

- **Required Transparency:** Any use of AI (a.g., chatbots such as ChatGPT, Microsoft, Copilot; Canva AI; Photoshop AI; AI video generators, etc) must be clearly disclosed at the time of submission.
- **Human-Centered Creation:** Entries must primarily reflect the ideas, work and creativity of the contestant(s). AI may assist, but cannot replace, the contestant's originality and effort.
- **Prohibited Use:** Contestants may not submit fully AI-generated works as their own original creation. Entries primarily or completely AI-generated will be disqualified.

Essay Contest:

- **Allowed Uses:**
 - Using AI to brainstorm ideas, create outlines, or suggest improvements.
 - Using grammar or spelling correction tools (i.e. Grammarly).
- **Prohibited Uses:**
 - Submitting AI-generated content as original work.
 - Copying AI-generated content directly into the submission without substantial revision and personal contribution.
- **Disclosure Requirement:**
 - A brief statement must be included at the end of the essay if AI tools were used. A

fillable disclosure is located at the end of this document.

Video Contest:

- Allowed Uses:

- Using AI for editing suggestions, subtitles, or enhancing video quality.
- Using AI-generated background music or visuals, provided they are properly licensed.

- Prohibited Uses:

- Submitting fully AI-generated videos or scripts as original work.
- Using AI avatars as AI-generated voices to represent contests intended to appear as student-created.

- Disclosure Requirement:

- A brief statement must be attached to the video entry sheet if AI tools were used. A

fillable disclosure is located at the end of this document.

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

- Failure to disclose AI use of submitting primarily AI-generated work as original may result in disqualification.
- Judges reserve the right to question entries and request clarification regarding AI involvement.

Alabama Farm-City encourages students to explore technology responsibly. Proper AI use demonstrates critical thinking, creativity and ethical decision-making, aligning with the mission of Alabama Farm-City to promote understanding and cooperation between rural and urban communities.

Policy Effective: July 1, 2025

Approved by: Alabama Farm-City Committee

Model Disclosure Statement:

I acknowledge that artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the creation of this project. Specifically, AI was utilized for [briefly describe the purpose, e.g., generating text, editing images, assisting with coding, etc.]. All AI-generated content was reviewed and edited to ensure originality, accuracy, and alignment with the contest guidelines. I affirm that the final submission reflects my own creative direction and decision-making.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____