



Date: August 20, 2026

To: MO FFA, Teresa Briscoe

From:

MO Forest Products Association

505 East State Street

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone: 573-634-3252

Re: 2026 Fall Public Speaking LDE

Enclosed information pertains to MFPA's competition for the Fall Public Speaking LDE.

MFPA would like to thank MO FFA for allowing us to participate in this competition. Our experiences with this competition have been very rewarding, and we realize the positive impact FFA is having on students. Our organization would like to be able to continue to reach students through this event and encourage young learners that are advocating for agriculture.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Amy Thompson at 573-783-5786 or email amyt@cedarcreekhardwoods.com.

Thank you,
Amy Thompson



Fall Public Speaking Contest

Purpose – To encourage young leaders to be more aware of the forest and wood processing industry and to advocate for sustainable management and sound stewardship of Missouri’s forests to benefit current and future generations.

Eligibility – The Missouri Forest Products Association FFA Public Speaking Contest will be open to FFA students who are enrolled in vocational agriculture courses during the current calendar year.

Dates of Competition – Area and District competition dates will be determined by FFA. Each district will be allowed to send one contestant to the state competition. The state competition will be held in conjunction with the MFPA Winter Meeting held in Jefferson City, MO. The date for the competition will be January 12, 2027.

Theme – The US Hardwoods Industry is facing a downturn due to multiple issues including wood alternatives, tariffs, workforce challenges, and rising operating costs. As students of Gen Z and Gen Alpha, how would you rebrand and market the hardwoods industry so that it is thriving once again?

Time Limit - Each speech shall be no less than six minutes and no more than eight minutes in length. Each contestant will be allowed five minutes additional time in which he or she will be asked questions pertaining to the theme.

Speech Preparation - Each contestant’s manuscript will be the result of their own efforts. The speech should be prepared on double spaced typewritten pages of white bond paper, 8.5 x 11 inches.

Bibliography - A complete and accurate bibliography must be included. All contestants in the Missouri Forest Products Association FFA Public Speaking Contest should give credit to others where any direct quotes or phrases are used in the manuscript.

Preparation for State Competition – Once the District winners are selected, the local FFA Advisor will send the following to:

Cedar Creek Hardwoods

Attn: Amy Thompson

1143 Highway O

Fredericktown, MO 63645

1. Four double spaced typed copies of the speech on 8.5" x 11" white paper.
2. A signed statement that the contestant's speech is the result of their own work.
3. Bibliography.

For questions, please call or email Amy Thompson.

Phone: 573-783-5786 Email: amyt@cedarcreekhardwoods.com

Awards –

First Place - \$200

Second Place - \$150

Third Place - \$100

Remaining Contestants - \$50 each

The first place winner will present their speech to the attendees at the MFPA Winter Meeting Banquet on January 12, 2027.