



## Agri – Science Fair 2008

The City of Surrey is home to strong agricultural industry. While agriculture is not normally its own category in science fairs, many of the conventional science fair categories like botany, zoology, chemistry and others are directly related to the field of agriculture. We are looking for young scientific investigators who are courageous enough to delve into the mysteries of science in agriculture and to present their findings at the Cloverdale Country Fair, in May 2008.

### Regulations

- All Exhibition Committee General Rules and Regulations apply
- Projects must be experimental in nature and have a relationship to agriculture
- Entry form must be submitted by Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008
- Participants must be available to attend their displays and answer questions during the judging process, Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm to 5:30pm.
- If mutually agreed, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed displays will be exhibited to the public during the Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair.

### Basic Rules

- **Abstract** — the abstract should be displayed on the front wing of the display board, in the lower left corner. The abstract should be a maximum of 250 words, with the addition of three references.
- **Size of Display** — Maximum 48 inches wide, 48 inches high, 30 inches deep.
- **Organisms** — no living creatures, including animals, plants, and microorganisms can be displayed. No type of cultured growth, spoiled food, or molds can be displayed.
- **Tissue** — no human or animal tissues can be displayed. Teeth, hair, nails, dried animal bones, histological sections and mounted slides are allowed.
- **Specimen** — no taxidermy parts, preserved animals, embryos, or dried plant material can be displayed.

- **Photographs** — no visual presentations of surgical techniques, dissections, necropsies or other lab techniques depicting vertebrate animals or humans in other than everyday conditions can be displayed.
- **Solid Waste** — no solid waste, soil or other waste material may be displayed.
- **Chemicals** — no chemicals of any kind, including water, can be displayed.
- **Foodstuff** — no human or animal food can be displayed.
- **Sharp items** — no syringes, needles, pipettes or other sharp instruments can be displayed.
- **Controlled Substances** — poisons, drugs, controlled substances, explosives, hazardous devices or weapons cannot be displayed.
- **Dry Ice** — dry ice or other solids that vaporize will not be displayed.
- **Fire** — no open flames or highly combustible materials are allowed.
- **Tanks** — tanks, full or empty, used for storage of combustible gases or liquids are not to be displayed.
- **Machinery** — no unshielded belts, chains, pulleys or other hazardous moving parts shall be displayed.
- **Lasers** — only class II lasers with proper warning labels displayed are allowed. Class III and IV are not allowed.
- **Heat Source** — materials heated above 100 degree F are not allowed without adequate insulation.
- **Electric Current** — no unshielded high voltage equipment, large vacuum tubes, ray-generating devices, bare wires and knife switches carrying current at more than 12 v, or exposed sparks will be allowed.
- **Embellishments** — awards, medals, business cards personal information and photographs are not allowed.
- **Batteries** — no open cell batteries may be displayed.

## **Display Tips**

- The real purpose of the display is to summarize the project. It should not contain any extra data or unnecessary graphics.
- The audience is seeing the project for the first time. Make sure everything is explained clearly.
- Required categories, such as question, hypothesis, procedure, materials, results, and conclusions, should be arranged in a logical sequence on the display board.
- Charts, graphs and tables should be clearly labeled, with units of measurement clearly indicated; all photos and illustrations should have captions.
- The tabletop is the perfect place to display some of the materials and critical parts of your procedure. Make sure you plan ahead.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

### **Creative Ability/Originality**

- There was a question asked
- The question was original and the answer was not known
- The approach to answering the question was creative
- The creativity of the study was within the student's creative ability
- The student used the scientific method in experimentation rather than only descriptions and observations

### **Scientific Thought**

- The scope of the study was within the student's ability
- The study was well thought out and showed initiative in thought and design
- The goals and objectives of the study were well defined
- The scientific literature was examined
- A logical hypothesis was developed for this study
- The data collected relates to the hypothesis

### **Thoroughness**

- The student collected all data available
- The student identified all the controls
- The sample sizes and population sources were carefully chosen
- The variable of each experiment was clearly defined
- Replications and duplications were used
- The student anticipated the problems encountered
- The student related the work to that reported in the literature
- The data were collected in quantitative units
- The student conducted several experiments, not just one
- The study was completed or brought to a logical stopping place
- The data were thoroughly analyzed

### **Skill**

- The experiment's protocols were handled with skill
- The experiments were designed with care and anticipation
- The data measurements were done precisely
- The study was skillfully designed and was not too complicated
- Technical problems were overcome and not merely avoided
- A detailed notebook and log were kept
- This study was the student's alone and excessive help was not utilized

### **Clarity**

- The student is able to explain what was done
- The student clearly understands the meaning of the results obtained
- The student understands how this study can be improved
- It is clear to the student whether the data actually support or fail to support the hypothesis
- The display is well organized so that the parts of the presentation are logical. It is neat and uncluttered. It does not include items that are not relevant to the study

- The display stands alone. It is possible to understand the study without the student present
- The display communicates science. It is not just an exercise in artistry

## **Resources**

- Many tremendous resources are available through your school, local libraries, and on the internet
- A couple of recommended websites that have how-to guides and handbooks as well as project ideas;

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/fair/ideasframe.htm>

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/scifirstudio/evaluation.html>

## **Acknowledgements**

Agri-Science Fair format and regulations are derived from **www.discoveryschool.com**  
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