

2007 Okeechobee County Fair Vegetable Identification & Judging Contest¹

¹Adapted from [Florida FFA Vegetable CDE](#), version 1/24/06



Purpose The Vegetable Identification and Judging event is designed to test skills and knowledge of students and adults in the area of vegetable production and management.

Eligibility **Youth** participants will be placed in either FFA or 4-H/open Divisions. FFA and 4-H members must meet membership requirements of their respective organizations. Chapters and 4-H Clubs may enter multiple teams, each with four individuals. Only the top three scores will be calculated for the team total. **Adults** may compete only as individuals.

General Instructions

Advisors should properly instruct students how to participate in a contest before arriving at the contest site (including judging card completion, contest expectations, etc.). Consult the [website](#) for lists of suggested references and Internet sites suitable for on-line study.

Youth participants must be accompanied by adult chaperones at all events. Contestants will report to the contest coordinator for specific instructions and details of the event. Late arrivals for contest registration may be ineligible for competition. This decision will be made by the contest coordinator. Contestants and advisors should act in a manner that will reflect favorably on their organization.

Advisors are responsible for registering individuals or team members for competition or group functions. Teams that Pre-register by the pre-registration deadline are eligible for **10** "bonus points" on their team scores. See website for [registration form](#). It is prohibited for anyone to register their members under another member's or chapter's name. If this rule is violated, the groups involved will be disqualified in the contest.

Contest coordinator may combine unattached individuals to create team as appropriate.

Judging cards that are incorrectly completed (i.e. no contestant number, stray marks, etc.) will not be scored.

Advisors will be expected to assist in contest facilitation (i.e. act as group leaders, etc.) as requested by the contest coordinator.

Contestants must provide their own pens, pencils, erasers, and other necessary items for contest competition. Contestants may bring a clipboard and two #2 pencils. Use of a hand lens is encouraged. Contestants will be provided [Scantron answer sheets](#).

While any contest is in progress, there shall be no communication among the contestants or between contestants and anyone else except as directed by the contest coordinator. It is prohibited for advisors or anyone else to interfere with, interrupt or distract a contestant while competition is in progress. If there is an obvious and flagrant infraction of this rule, the contest coordinator has the authority to disqualify the violator from competition.

Official Judges

Official judges for each contest will be selected by the contest coordinator or his or her representative. Careful consideration should be given to select qualified and competent judges.

The official judges should make their identifications and placings in the same manner as is required of contestants with respect to handling specimens.

The official judges will give their completed official placings and scores (i.e. “cuts”) to the contest coordinator. Placings by the official judges must be kept confidential until the contest is completed and public announcements are made.

Specific Event Procedures

Identification of specimens will be composed of vegetable varieties, insects, diseases, weeds, seeds, nutrient deficiencies, grades, and defects. Varieties may be shown in either mature or seedling stages. When actual specimens are unavailable, photographs may be used. Each specimen to be identified is worth **5** points.

Four judging classes will be placed based on items of quality and other characteristics that a consumer utilizes in buying vegetables. The vegetable specimen plates in each placing class will be placed on individual merit. Each placing class is worth **50** points.

A general knowledge exam covering vegetable production will *not* be given this year.

4-H and FFA members should be in official dress, appropriate to the event, and will be scored accordingly.

Contest Scoring – Tabulating Results

At the conclusion of each contest all completed cards will be delivered to the contest coordinator for tabulation. Contests will be scored on site where possible. All team advisers will be sent a copy of the results.

The contest coordinator will prepare lists of scores showing the consecutive order of ranking of the teams in each division and individuals in each contest. Placings by the official judges must be kept confidential until the contest is completed and public announcements are made.

Results of contests will be made available only through the contest coordinator. Announced results of contests for both individuals and teams are to be considered final. Completed cards and tests of individual participants will be available only to the contest coordinator. The contest coordinator has the option of returning them.

Prepared 2/2007 by D.F. Culbert, UF/IFAS Okeechobee County Horticulture Agent. Trade names, where used, are given for the purpose of providing specific information. They do not constitute an endorsement or guarantee of products named, nor does it imply criticism of products not named. The Florida Cooperative Extension Service - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / IFAS / University of Florida.

