"Agriculture is Cool" Written Expression Scholarship Contest Official Rules

1. **Sponsors:** This contest is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, P.O. Box 182383 Columbus, Ohio 43218 and the Ohio Expositions Commission, 717 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

2. **Terms and Conditions:** All participants, by virtue of their entry in this contest, agree to be bound by the applicable terms and conditions set forth in these official rules.

3. **Eligible Participants:** Participant must be a legal resident of Ohio who completed the fourth grade at an Ohio school by the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Participant must have permission of at least one parent or legal guardian to enter the contest. Participant's parent/legal guardian is bound to these same official rules as a participant of the contest upon entry. Ohio students completing the fourth grade at the end of the 2013-2014 school year are invited to visit designated agricultural education stations at the 2014 Ohio State Fair (July 23 – August 3). Participants and one chaperone may enter the Ohio State Fair on any one (1) day for free by presenting their report/grade card, evidencing they have completed the fourth grade at an Ohio school in the 2013-2014 school year. **Participants must view at least four of the agricultural education stations at the 2014 Ohio State Fair to be eligible to enter the scholarship contest**. Employees of Sponsors and employees' immediate families are not eligible to win. Immediate family members include relatives living at the same address as an employee. Contest is void where prohibited by law.

4. **How to Enter:** This contest will begin on July 23, 2014, and end at 11:59 p.m. on August 30, 2014. No Purchase Necessary to Win. All entries must include name of participant's school, a copy of his or her agricultural education passport, along with all requested contact information including name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Prizes will be awarded to the eligible participant named on the winning entry submission. Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges who will consider creativity, originality, and understanding of agriculture taken from the Ohio State Fair experience. **Entries must be e-mailed to info@expo.state.oh.us no later than August 30, 2014. Alternate entry can be made by mailing entries to the Ohio Expo Center & State Fair, Attn: Agriculture is Cool, 717 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211 postmarked by August 30, 2014.** Entries made through the alternate entry procedure are equal participants and receive the same chance of winning as those entering through the e-mail procedure. The written expression entry should convey what the student learned from the agricultural education stations and how that learning experience applies to the child's life. Participants should submit one entry as listed below. The entries shall consist of an essay or creative story which is no longer than the front of one double-spaced type-written page (8.5x11 inch standard paper, 12 point, Times New Roman font).

5. **Entry Requirements:** Entry must be the original work of the eligible participant. Any plagiarism or failure to identify material that is not the participant's own work will be grounds for disqualification. Additionally, by entering this contest, participants represent and warrant that their submission is original and does not infringe on the rights or intellectual property claims of any third party or entity, and agree to indemnify and hold Sponsors harmless for any related claims. Sponsors reserve the right to disqualify any entries they deem to be obscene or inappropriate. **Only one entry per person will be considered**. Additional entries from one person will be deemed invalid. No automated entries please.

6. **Prizes awarded:** A total of four prizes will be awarded at a value of five hundred dollars and no cents ($500.00) each. All winners will be chosen by a panel of judges selected by the contest Sponsors. Sponsors will award prizes only upon winner verification and final approval. Decisions of the Sponsors concerning any and all matters with respect to this contest shall be final. The Sponsors cannot be held responsible for any telecommunications systems, postal malfunctions and/or other submission failures that might impede an entrant's ability to enter this contest. Lost, late, damaged, undelivered or illegible entries will not be considered for prizes. No substitutions or transfers of prizes shall be made, except within discretion of the Sponsors. **Winners will be notified via e-mail or phone by September 26, 2014, and will have ten business days to accept the prize or they will be disqualified and an alternative winner will be selected**. Winner and their parent/legal guardian will be required to execute appropriate releases before prize is transferred. If the winner fails to provide proper

identification and sign the appropriate releases, or if the announced winner is determined to be an ineligible participant, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Expositions Commission and other sponsors shall declare the prize forfeited, and proceed to choose another winner from the remaining eligible entries. Winners release the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Expositions Commission and any other affiliates and contest sponsors from liability for any loss, damage, or claim of property related to the participation in the contest and/or usage of the prize. The Sponsors reserve the final judgment on all matters pertaining to this contest including the right to change or modify the rules, or to discontinue or extend the contest without prior notice. Should contest Sponsors become aware of any hacking, security breaches, or other misconduct, sponsors reserve the right to discontinue the contest immediately. Prizes are funded by the Ohio State Fair Youth Reserve Program.

7. **Odds of winning:** The odds of winning will be determined by the number of entries received. Four entries will be chosen as winners from eligible entries.

8. **Entries property of contest sponsors:** All entry materials become the property of the State of Ohio upon receipt, including any and all copyright or trademark rights associated with the entry. Winners shall allow the State of Ohio to use their name, likeness, and contest entry materials for all purposes, including but not limited to promotional or educational related purposes, without compensation or prior notice.

9. **Privacy Statement:** Any personal information collected by the Sponsors is subject to Ohio's sunshine laws and may be deemed to be a public record. This information could become public if a public records request is received seeking information about this contest.

10. **Applicable law:** The parties agree that any legal action proceeding or relating to this contest shall be instituted in a state court sitting in Columbus, Ohio, which shall be the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of any legal proceedings. Participants hold all responsibility to comply with any applicable federal, state or local laws in connection with their contest entry or prize winnings.

11. **Tax responsibility:** Winners shall assume any and all responsibility as to federal, state or local taxes due in connection with the prize.

12. **Obtaining Rules:** A copy of these official rules will be posted on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's website: www.agri.ohio.gov. These rules can also be obtained from the Ohio Expositions Commission or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Ohio Expo Center & State Fair, Attn: Agriculture is Cool, 717 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211.