



UTAH
FFA ASSOCIATION

Career Development Events

Forestry

Contest Date and Time:

Tuesday, April 21st, 2020
8:00 am

Contest Location:

Eccles Conference Center Room 303, Utah State University Main Campus

Host:

Chad Dewey
chad.dewey@snow.edu

Teachers,

This is my second year running the forestry competition at the state level and I'm excited to be a part of it. I have ran the competition at Snow College for three years now and have realized how hard it must be for ag teachers to prepare students. There is so much information for each competition and so many competitions that it seems impossible. I will try to help teachers by telling you which aspects of the competition we will be focusing on as well as study information that might be helpful for each station

Below is the format for the 2020 Forestry Competition. I have talked to quite a few teachers and decided to keep the same stations as last year to give some continuity to the competition. Last year no team did extremely well, so I feel like repeating the same stations will help students and teachers prepare better. In future years, we will probably keep 5/7 stations and replace 1 or 2 each year. Another big change this year is that **we decided to change the Tree ID competition drastically. We are not going to be using the national list, but will be using a book called "Utah Tree Field Guide"**. It is a USU extension book and focuses on trees found in Utah. We felt like most students competing would benefit more from knowing local trees than trees only found in the East. If they decide to pursue a forestry degree later on, they will have plenty of opportunity to learn those other trees. If they move onto the national competition, they will have to re-learn a new list, but that shouldn't affect many teams. Students will rotate between each station every 30 minutes. They will **not** be required to bring a hard hat.

I am always open to suggestions and would love to hear your thoughts and opinions on how to make this competition better. I can even travel to your school and try to help teach some of the concepts if you would like (and multi-task and present in a class or two about our amazing program at Snow College).

Station 1: General Knowledge Exam (only 25 questions with 1/2 hour to complete them, 100 points)

This is the hardest one to prepare for, because the test can cover anything relating to forestry. I would recommend going to this link

<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/z14451g2rmugqywbve6w4h4zs2i7f1nn/folder/50543587732> and reviewing past years exams. This test will be multiple choice. These are some areas this years test will focus on: Basic tree physiology, map interpretation (including acres, hectares, PLSS, etc.), safety practices (pesticide, chainsaw, equipment, etc.), basic forestry terms, etc.

Station 2: Tree Identification (100 points)

We will only use trees from the “Utah Tree Field Guide” by Mike Kuhns. They can be purchased here for \$5.00 each (plus shipping). <https://usuextensionstore.com/utah-tree-field-guide/>

I will include a PDF with a list of the trees that will be on the test. Here is another link that has almost all of the trees on the list (plus others that you don't need to study) that you can study without buying the book. <https://forestry.usu.edu/tree-identification/index>

For the exam, they might have some pressed plants, pictures, and/or real live samples (it's taken in a classroom, so the samples will only be parts of the tree).

Station 3: Tree Measurement – Timber Cruising for Board Volume (100 points)

We will be using Biltmore sticks to get DBH, total tree height, and board foot volume. The national competition has you get the “Merchantable height” which is the base of the tree to the DIB (Diameter Inside Bark) of 10 inches. That is hard for students to determine, so to simplify this a bit, we have decided to use the total tree height (from base of tree to very top of tree) as the merchantable height. We will have some Biltmore sticks or you can bring your own. Once they get the DBH and height of the tree with their Biltmore stick, make sure they use the volume table provided at the event. There are different volume tables (Doyle, Scribner, International 1/4 inch) and the one on their Biltmore stick might be different than the one at the competition.

Station 4: Map Interpretation (50 points)

We will be testing on basic map reading skills, like reading topography (contours, ridge, drainage, peak, saddle, aspect, etc.), measuring distances, reading basic symbols and legends, understanding PLSS (size of sections, 1/4 sections, how to write them in a legal description), and being able to find UTM coordinates.

Station 5: Compass (50 points)

We will be setting up a course where students need to get the azimuth (bearing) and distance between multiple flags. They will only be given a compass and will need to know how to accurately use their steps to get distances.

Station 6: Forest Products (50 points)

I realize this is an extremely hard test and we will probably only do it one more year. We will have wood samples as well as an example of what they might be used for. You can use the resources on the Forestry Handbook or you can buy actual samples from <http://woodsbywgwgreen.com/wood-samples/>

Station 7: Chainsaw Part Identification, Troubleshooting and Safety (50 points)

Use the Husqvarna publication on the Forestry Handbook. I will be using a Stihl chainsaw. I will have some pictures and some real parts on the test.