

Youth Sustainability Writing Competition Contest Information and Rules

Purpose:

This competition is being sponsored by the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota. Our intention is to encourage young people to think about sustainable farming and its implications in Minnesota: Where does your food come from? How does sustainable farming benefit the environment? Is there value in having beautiful countryside in our state? Are small farms and rural life important elements in our culture?

Rules:

- 1) Writers must be within one of the age divisions: 14 - 18 (high school) or 19 - 25 (college). However, if you are younger than 19 and are a full-time college student, you should enter in the college division. You do not have to be an enrolled student as long as you are in one of the age divisions.
- 2) Writers must be Minnesota residents, or students from elsewhere attending a MN college or high school.
- 3) You may enter as many categories as you like, but only one entry per category.
- 4) Entries must be received by the Youth Outreach Coordinator no later than March 16, 2009.
- 5) Formats: Entries may be printed - with each piece on a separate page - or entries may be sent electronically, in Microsoft Word or as a PDF document, either mailed on a disk or emailed to the Youth Outreach Coordinator. Each piece should be a separate document.
- 6) It is the intent of this competition that all work submitted will be original by the author. Other material used by the author must be properly credited.
- 7) The copyright of each piece remains with the author. Authors will grant SFA of MN the right to publish or broadcast the material for two years from April 2009.
- 8) All entries must be in English or have an accurate translation provided by the author.

Workshops:

A companion workshop is available at no cost to schools and other organizations, directed by author/playwright/songwriter/poet Marianne Kreitlow. This workshop will focus on the categories of Flash Fiction, Poetry and Dramatic Monologue. Participants will finish the workshop with pieces begun or ready to enter the competition. Call (320) 543-3394 or email marianne@marienne.com for more information. Sponsored by Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota.

Youth Writing Competition ENTRY FORM

Must be received by March 16, 2009

Author's Name

Address

City / State / Zip

Email

Phone

Division

____ High School (or age 14-18)

____ College (or age 19-25)

Please list the titles of the pieces you are submitting:

Poetry

Journalism

Limerick

Haiku

Essay / Creative non-fiction

Flash fiction / Short story

Dramatic monologue or duet

There is no entry fee for this competition

Please send your entries to:

Jerry Ford, Events & Youth Outreach Coordinator
Sustainable Farming Association of MN
7616 25th Street SW, Howard Lake, MN 55439
or email to: jerry@marienne.com

www.sfa-mn.org

“New Voices for Sustainable Farming, Local Foods, a Healthy Environment, and Vital Rural Communities”

YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY WRITING COMPETITION

Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota presents the 2009:

Judging, Presentation, and Awards

Each category will be judged by a professional author or writing teacher. Finalists in each category will be given the opportunity to read or perform their piece at the Youth Sustainability Confabulation on Saturday, April 4, 2009. Finalists will be reimbursed for their mileage to the Confab at \$0.45 per mile. Winners in each category will receive an honorarium of \$50 in addition to the mileage reimbursement, and a plaque. Obviously, we are encouraging finalists to attend the Confab, but if you cannot, your piece will likely be read, and you will still be eligible to win. The winners' works will be published in SFA of MN's quarterly newsletter, "The CornerPost", on the SFA website or in other SFA publications.

www.sfa-mn.org

Youth Sustainability Writing Competition Awards Ceremony and Readings will be held at the Youth Sustainability Confab, Gustavus Adolphus College, Saturday, April 4, 2009

This information & entry form are also available at:

WWW.SFA-MN.ORG

High School and College Age Divisions with categories in:

Poetry

Poems will be 40 lines or less and may be in any style or form. Themes should include rural life, nature, the environment, farming or local foods.

Journalism

Entries should portray a real life, eyewitness account or personally researched story about Minnesota sustainable farming.

Limerick

Consisting of five lines, "aabba" rhyme scheme, with a syllable structure of 9, 9, 6, 6, 9. It should be witty or humorous, and based on the same themes as the Poetry Category.

Haiku

In the English free form style of 17 or fewer syllables; three lines in short/long/short, focusing on images from nature, farming or local foods.

Essay/Creative non-fiction

200 - 400 words answering the question, "What is your vision for the future of rural Minnesota?". Themes can include farming, locally produced foods, the environment, vital rural communities and the beauty of Minnesota's countryside.

Flash fiction/Short story

A short story of 100 - 500 words in which the setting, main characters, theme or plot concerns rural MN and/or farming.

Dramatic Monologue or Duet

A self-contained dramatic speech given by a single character, or a conversation between two characters, in 300 words or less. Themes are the same as Flash Fiction and Essay.