

Four Owasso students competed at the American Farmers & Ranchersâ€™ 74th annual state speech contest, held Saturday, Dec. 1, at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Madison Hutton, Kayli Hasselbring, Rebekah Rake and Callie Moseley were among more than 120 students across Oklahoma to advance to the state contest. The AFR competitions consist of five district contests and a state contest. At each event, students in grades 4-12 compete in one of four categories: American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union, Science & Natural Resources, Agribusiness and Ag Advocacy & Policy. â€œThe fall speech contest proves to be a successful event every year,â€• AFR Youth Development Coordinator Micaela Danker said in a press release. â€œIt gives students the opportunity to gain knowledge about current issues and topics facing the agricultural industry as well as improve public speaking skills.â€• Over the weekend, students competed for more than \$10,000 in scholarships and awards after previously participating in their district contests, where they were required to place first or second in their respective category and division. Rake was State Runner Up in Intermediate Ag Advocacy & Policy, Hutton took home 3rd Place in Senior Agribusiness, and Kayli Hasselbring landed 4th Place in Senior Ag Advocacy & Policy. When asked what it means to see his students excel at state, Owasso agriculture instructor Jonathan Holloway simply replied, â€œWe are extremely proud of the efforts and successes of these students.â€• The AFR speech contests are one of several ways for Oklahomaâ€™s youth to become involved in the organization. Poster contests, summer youth leadership summit, statewide scholarships, livestock handling and skills contest, livestock judging and grading contests, among others, are also available. For more information about American Farmers & Ranchers, visit [iafr.com](http://iafr.com). Be the first to know Get local news delivered to your inbox! Sign up! \* I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and privacy policy.