

Area school children are invited and encouraged to use their creative talents and enter the American Farmers & Ranchers Poster Contest. Each year, American Farmers & Ranchers Youth Programs capture the creativity of students across Oklahoma with more than 5,000 posters entered. Local AFR agent Justin Richards would like to see many of those entries come from right here in the Coweta area. This year's poster contest theme is "Believe in Oklahoma Agriculture." Contest guidelines include: * Posters must solely be the work of the student. Students may use crayons, markers, pens, pencils or magazine pictures. * Posters will be judged on originality, creativity, neatness, subjectivity and overall effect. According to Richards, there are two age divisions. Children in 1st or 2nd grades will compete in Division I while those in 3rd or 4th grade will compete in Division 2. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners at the state level. In each division, 1st place wins \$100, 2nd place wins \$75 and 3rd, 4th and 5th places will win \$50. For posters that are entered locally, Richards plans to offer cash awards as well. In each division, 1st place wins \$35, 2nd place wins \$25 and 3rd place wins \$15. "The local results will have no bearing on the state judging," Richards assured. "My hope is to garner more participation in our local area." All posters should be turned in to Richards' office at 112 S. Broadway by Monday, Dec. 9 for local judging. The state deadline for entries is Jan. 1, and Richards will take all locally submitted posters and send them to the state office. For more information, call Richards at 918-486-2101.