

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is AgOvation?

AgOvation is a research-based competition that challenges youth to explore and develop innovative science-based solutions to agricultural problems that they identify in their own communities. Youth in grades 7 through 12 work in teams of 2 to 5 to develop a project and create a presentation to share their results, findings and/or created solution/product. Youth work with a team coach and mentor from the agriculture related field that most closely relates to their project. Youth are also encouraged to connect with representatives from Iowa State University and the agribusiness community, who are eager to meet and work with the next generation of leaders in agriculture and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

2. What is the mission of AgOvation?

AgOvation empowers youth to explore and develop research-based solutions to current agriculture issues within Iowa and beyond.

3. What are the AgOvation project areas?

The project areas directly mirror the Pillars of Agriculture Literacy, which connect agriculture to crucial topics in society.

- 1) The Relationship Between Agriculture and Animals
- 2) The Relationship Between Agriculture and Lifestyle
- 3) The Relationship Between Agriculture and the Economy
- 4) The Relationship Between Agriculture and Food, Fiber and Energy
- 5) The Relationship Between Agriculture and the Environment
- 6) The Relationship Between Agriculture and Technology

4. What is the timeline for AgOvation?

- January 1 - February 27 2019: All Teams Register — *Statewide*
- End of August: Regional Team Events — *Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast*
- September 26: State Finals — Ames

5. What is a team coach and who can be one?

A team coach is a screened adult volunteer who is willing to supervise, motivate and oversee the team. Coaches work with youth staff to ensure all paperwork is completed and submitted on time, and also travel with the team to the regional and state competition. Coaches must be willing to serve the youth team from registration all the way through the state competition.

6. What is a mentor and who can be one?

A mentor is an expert in the field of study that a team is researching. A mentor may be a college professor, extension specialist, industry representative, scientist, etc. A team may have multiple mentors.

7. What awards do students receive?

Regional event awards are up to the region.

At the state level, the top three teams are awarded scholarship money for post-secondary education. Each youth on the top scoring team will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to be used towards the college, university or accredited trade school of their choice. Additional prizes will be awarded to teams in second or third.

6. Are travel stipends available?

Travel stipends are available to teams participating at the state competition in Ames.

Who do I contact for more information?

Dr. Cayla Taylor,
ISU Extension and Outreach
4-H and Youth Development
1259 Stange Road
Ames, IA 50011
515-294-1877
cayla@iastate.edu