

## 2015 CDE

### Agricultural Communications Editing Quiz

Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

FFA Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Contestant Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Twenty five words or phrases are underlined in the news story below. Some are correct and others contain errors. Indicate in the space to the right if the words or phrases are correct **(C)** or incorrect **(I)**. If they are incorrect, correct them using standard editing marks in the sentence. You may find errors related to grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling and other Associated Press style issues.

#### Agricultural drones may change the way we farm

Written By: John Wihbey  
Public Opinion News

1	For centuries, much of farming has been legwork: walking down rows, through patches, going <u>plant by plant</u> to check for weeds, bugs, parched soil, any sign of distress.	1.
2	Modern machinery, soil testing, computers, and <u>ground-based sensors</u> have made crop monitoring and tending more efficient, but still lots goes unnoticed.	2.
3	Even with a trained eye, there also are inevitably data that <u>can't be</u> detected at scale	3.
4	And if one ailing plant is found, what is the impact on the sometimes <u>100s of thousands of</u> plants that surround it? Farmers were long left to guess.	4.
5	This is not for much <u>longer; agriculture drones</u> may soon be flying across America's farmland.	5.
6	Federal rules around unnamed aerial vehicles were loosened late last year, and special permits were issued to <u>a hand full of</u> agriculture operators.	6.
7	As that number grows, the impact on the <u>US farm sector</u> could be huge: billions of dollars in economic returns and tens of thousands of jobs within only a few years.	7.
8	The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates farmers' return-on-investment alone could be <u>twelve dollars per acre</u> for corn and \$2 to \$3 per acre for soybeans and wheat.	8.
9	Experts suggest such advancement <u>couldn't come</u> soon enough.	9.
10	The United Nations projects that, assuming a global population of 9.1 billion people in 2050, food production will need to <u>raise by about</u> 70 percent.	10.

11	Improving crop yields will be increasingly important to feeding the <u>world, and drones</u> can help.	11.
12	Despite the pervasive idea that drones are primarily useful for surveillance or warfare, agriculture drones are expected to make up 80 percent of the <u>future commercial market</u>	12.
13	They will be deployed as <u>Worker Bees, spraying</u> and treating crops, but the potential is much bigger.	13.
14	Super-high resolution spectral imaging will garner <u>data-driven insight, allowing</u> for more targeted fertilizing and better use of water and labor.	14.
15	Even for organic farmers, monitoring for <u>disease and draught</u> could be made far easier.	15.
16	“The beauty of the whole thing is that it saves the farmer money and helps the <u>environment, too,</u> ” says Kevin Price, a <u>longtime</u> plant ecologist at Kansas State University.	16.
17	Price grew up on an alfalfa farm and cattle ranch <u>in the southwest.</u>	17.
18	He has been curious about how satellite data could improve farming, but until <u>recently he says</u> that kind of information would just draw a yawn from agronomists and growers alike.	18.
19	Kristina Polziehn and Darrien Genereux, a pair of Canadian drone pilots, have been flying the vehicles <u>3 or 4 times a week</u> over vast canola fields in the western province of Alberta.	19.
20	“Every flight you learn,” <u>Polziehn says.</u> “ <u>There</u> are going to be times when you have bad launches, or the drone lands far away and you wonder, ‘How are you going to find this thing?’ ”	20.
21	The United States’ commercial drone market lags behind a substantial number of countries across South America, <u>Asia, and</u> Europe.	21.
22	They’ll likely require unmanned vehicles be visible to pilots on the ground at all times, about <u>0.5 mile</u> in any direction, even in rural areas.	22.
23	To monitor the <u>country’s vast farms,</u> drones ideally would be able to fly for miles autonomously, says Lisa Ellman, a former Obama administration official who until recently helped formulate policy on drones.	23.
24	Some in the food production industry have made it more complicated, too, by backing laws that limit drone surveillance over private property to prevent activists who want drones to <u>moniter factory farms</u> and animal treatment.	24.
25	Indeed, Price concedes <u>that Farmers generally</u> will need some persuading. “They are going to kick those tires hard to be sure they’re going to save money,” he said.	25.