

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT Rules for the State FFA Event

Sponsor

The North Carolina FFA Foundation currently sponsors this event.

State Event Superintendent

The superintendent for this event is Mr. Bob Usry, Extension Specialist and Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economic, NC State University, Box 8109, Raleigh, NC 27695-8109 Phone: 919.515.4544 Fax: 919.515.6268 E-Mail: bob_usry@ncsu.edu

Comments and questions may also be directed to Mr. Jason Davis, State FFA Coordinator, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, NCSU, Box 7607, Raleigh, NC 27695-7607. Phone: 919.513.0216 Fax: 919.515.9060 Email: jason_davis@ncsu.edu

Eligibility and General Guidelines

This event is open to all FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing. Members that have participated in a previous national event or previous state winning teams in this area are ineligible. This event will be held during the North Carolina State FFA Convention.

Teams may consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven individuals who are actively participating, orally, presenting, and available to answer judges' questions. All participant scores will count toward the team total score. No alternates are allowed in state events. Any alternate found participating in a state event will result in team disqualification. FFA members and advisors may not visit the site of the state career development event within seven days of the start of the event. Teams that violate this rule will be disqualified.

The use of cellular phones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's) or any other mobile electronic communication device is prohibited during any state-level career development event. Any violation of this rule by any team member will result in total team disqualification.

Any member found cheating in any state-level career development event will result in total team disqualification for that event.

At the North Carolina FFA State Convention, members may participate in only one career development event with the exceptions of Creed and Parliamentary Procedure or Prepared Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure.

State Awards

The following awards will be presented annually at the state FFA convention provided sponsorship is available:

State Winning Team

\$500 and first place team plaque

Second Place Team
Third Place Team

Second place team plaque
Third place team plaque

National Career Development Event Participation

State winning teams advancing to the national career development event will be automatically registered for the national event. It is the responsibility of the FFA Chapter Advisor to complete all necessary national certification and waiver forms and return them to the state FFA Coordinator by the assigned due date.

State winning CDE Teams that choose not to participate at the national level should contact the state office by Sept 1 prior to national convention. Teams that fail to inform the state office prior to Sept 1 will be ineligible to participate in that same CDE for the next year (chapters may appeal to the State FFA Board of Directors). Teams that do not compete at the National Convention will be required to pay back the \$500 travel award.

Dress Code

Participants are required to follow the North Carolina FFA Career Development Event Dress Code. A ten percent reduction in the total team score will be taken if a participant violates the dress code. Participants in this event are required to wear official dress as described in the FFA manual or an appropriate costume for the presentation. For male members: black slacks, white collared shirt, official FFA tie, black dress shoes, black socks, and an official FFA jacket zipped up to the top. For female members: black skirt, white collared blouse, official FFA blue scarf, black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe, black nylon hosiery, an official FFA jacket zipped to the top. (Special Note: The skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than two inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat. Black slacks may be appropriate for traveling and outdoor activities.)

Event Format

1. Equipment Provided- It is the responsibility of the participants to secure any electronic presentation equipment necessary for their presentation.
2. Each team will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level.
3. The issue will come from one of the following seven agricultural issue topic areas as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues instructional materials:
 - a. Environmental Issues
 - b. Agricultural Technology Issues
 - c. Animal Issues
 - d. Agricultural Career Issues
 - e. Economy and Trade Issues
 - f. Agricultural Policy Issues
 - g. Food Safety Issues
4. The same agricultural issue presentation and portfolio will not be used in subsequent years by the same chapter/advisor.

5. Research on the topic must be current and students must be involved in all the research of the topic and development of the portfolio.

6. The portfolio should include items described in a, b, and c, below and will be limited to ten pages single sided or five pages double sided maximum not including cover page. The cover page will include the title of the issue, name, address and phone number of the chapter. A maximum of ten (10) points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum amount of pages and/or for not including the cover page containing required information.

a. A maximum of two pages of the portfolio will include a summary of the issue, answering the questions that are most relevant to your topic.

List course(s) in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue.

- Why is the issue important now?
- What is the nature of the issue?
- Who is involved in the issue?
- How can the issue be defined?
- What is the historical background of the issue?
- What caused the issue?
- What are the risks?
- What are the benefits?
- Is there strong disagreement on how the issue should be solved?

b. A bibliography of all resources and references cited which may include personal interviews and any other supporting material.

7. **Time Limits:** Five Minutes will be allowed for set up. The presentation will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The presenters will receive a signal at 10 minutes and at 14 minutes. At 15 minutes, the timekeeper will announce that time is up, and the presentation will end. A maximum of 5 minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of 5 minutes. Five minutes will be allowed for take down.

8. The presentations will be designed to be viewed by the judges. The audience at large will not be of concern to the presenters.

9. The judges may ask questions of all individuals of the presenting team. Each individual is encouraged to respond to at least one question from the judges..

Scoring

1. Introduction, Pro, Con and Summary (20 points each, 80 points total)

2. Overall presentation (participation of each member of the team, quality and power of the presentations, creativity, stage presence) (20 points)

3. Questions (25 points)
4. Portfolio (25 points total)

Prior to the event the portfolios will be judged and scored by qualified individuals using the portfolio scorecard. Portfolio scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after they have scored the presentation. Portfolio comment cards will be completed by portfolio judges and returned to the chapter.

5. Judge's ranking will be used to place teams.
6. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant when shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placing will be determined in the same manner (low rank method of selection)

Tie Breakers

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Team low ranks will be counted and the team with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the team's response to questions. The team with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to question will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists then the team's raw score will be totaled. The team with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

References

This list of references is not intended to be inclusive. Other sources may be utilized and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following may be helpful during event preparation:

Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Global Vision Instructional Materials, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization