



WISCONSIN  
ASSOCIATION OF FFA

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS HANDBOOK



## GENERAL STATE AND REGIONAL CDE RULES

- A) Any school that teaches agriculture and natural resources education with an FFA chapter may enter teams in the State FFA Career Development Events. Career Development Events (CDE) are contests. Our State CDEs basically follow the National FFA CDEs. All information about CDEs, contest sites and training materials are available on the Wisconsin FFA CDE [webpage](#).
- B) Previous State contest winning team members and/or any participants in National FFA competition who represent Wisconsin may not participate in further competition at qualifying or state contests in that contest area. All CDE contestants must be in good standing with their school's policies.
- C) All state non-qualifying contest teams shall consist of three or four FFA members. Qualifying teams must consist of at least three or four FFA members who are eligible to compete in that contest area at state.
- D) In order to participate in the State FFA CDE, a team must be pre-registered. The registration site portal is located on the state CDE [webpage](#) and closes 2 weeks prior to the event at 11:59 PM. Fees are assessed on all teams registered at the time registration closes. Each school will receive an email showing their registration data and an invoice to be paid.
- E) During in-person CDE events, if extenuating circumstances make it impossible for all members of a properly registered team of three or more to compete, the remaining one or two team members may compete as individuals and will be eligible for appropriate individual trophies. Practice teams are not allowed at the State contest. Check with the area contest to see if they are allowed. Misrepresentation of persons entered will mean disqualification of the team in that contest.
- F) All contestants must be registered FFA members in grades 7-12 and recorded on the Chapter's official roster before they compete in any CDE contest and may not compete at the state contest beyond their senior year.
- G) The team score in any state CDE will be the sum of the scores of the top four individual members. With VIRTUAL contests, more than 4 contestants from one chapter may compete, however the team score will be made up of the 4 individuals designated as "team member" This designation MUST be made before virtual contest begins.

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- H) Superintendents and judges will select the classes and decide upon the correct placing. Each contest area has its own superintendent and official judges. Their decisions in contest set-up and scoring are final. The details of each contest is detailed on the FFA CDE [webpage](#).
- I) Each contestant will be allowed approximately 12 minutes for placing each class of livestock. Superintendent will announce time. Team contestants will be assigned to different groups and will not be permitted to communicate with each other. Violations will result in disqualifications. Each animal will be numbered for identification; i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc. Contestants and officials will be properly identified and they will be the only people allowed on the judging arena floor. Cattle will be brought into the arena after the contestants are in place.
- J) Instructors not assisting are requested to assemble only in specified sections during judging.
- K) The State CDE committee reserves the right to host a virtual State Contest Screening prior to in-person events. Some state CDEs will be virtual ONLY. Information for this virtual contest screener will be communicated from the CDE Coordinator.

### DISQUALIFICATION SECTION

Non compliance with these rules will result in a letter sent to the school's administration, automatic disqualification of the team in that CDE and other possible sanctions.

- a) Electronic Technology, ie: cell phones, earbuds, and smartwatches, use is absolutely prohibited during any CDE. Any use of a cell phone will result in disqualification. Cell phones must be turned off and remain in a pocket during the CDE.
- b) For in-person CDE contests, an Academic Honesty statement will be signed at the start of competition.
- c) Virtual Events & Proctoring: All virtual CDEs will be proctored according to CDE guidelines. An Academic Honesty statement will be signed at the start of all virtual competitions.

### ACCOMODATION STATEMENT

Accommodation arrangements (ex: IEPs, 504s, ESL, IHPs, etc) will be made for competitors that have the need designated by the participating FFA Chapter's school district; . Schools that have student needs and are competing must contact the CDE Coordinator two weeks prior to the contest. The student's school must supply the needed assistance; for example, if the student needs the test read to them, the home school must provide, at their own cost, the reader. (FORM)

### STATE WINNERS

With one exception, once a student is on a State winning team or competes at the National FFA CDE, they are ineligible to compete in that specific CDE again (Area or State CDEs). The one exception is if a student qualifies for a National competition in a LDE and a CDE, National FFA makes the student choose which contest to compete in. If the student chooses to compete in the LDE, he/she can come back and compete in the Area and State CDE in that contest. Schools must notify the CDE Coordinator of this situation prior to the further competitions. This means you can participate in the CDEs and LDEs at the state level the following year in the event that they did not compete in at the national level. (This excludes state-only CDEs like Wildlife where there is no national event.)

- a) Results: Will be posted on the state CDE [webpage](#).
- b) Awards:
  - i) WI FFA Foundation Travel Stipend
  - ii) WAAE CDE Committee Travel Stipend
  - iii) 1<sup>st</sup> Place Trophy for Top Individual
  - iv) 1<sup>st</sup> Place Trophy for Team
  - v) Recognition during the WI FFA Convention state for 1<sup>st</sup> place individual and 1<sup>st</sup> place team members.
  - vi) State FFA Convention Meal tickets for 1<sup>st</sup> place team (4 students) and the 1<sup>st</sup> place individual.

- vii) Awards for individuals and teams at the discretion of the State FFA Office, FFA Foundation, and CDE Committee.

### NATIONAL CDES

Teams that win the State CDE contest are eligible for the National CDE (except Wildlife, where there is no National contest). Note that substitution rules for the National contests are different and much laxer than our State contests. If the winning team cannot attend, the second place team will be offered the opportunity to participate. Teams that attend the National CDEs are eligible to earn a \$125 stipend from the State CDE Committee if they complete a survey seeking information from the CDE coordinator.

### PROPER ATTIRE FOR CDES

Some contests require Official Dress, some like Meats, require a hard hat and lab coat and there are contests that require safety glasses or specialty gloves. All information is listed on the FFA CDE [webpage](#). NOTE: this is an FFA event and participants **MUST** dress appropriately! These students represent their schools, their parents as well as the entire FFA organization. This is a great opportunity for members to wear FFA shirts. It **IS NOT** a place to wear clothing depicting any insensitive, social or political messages. Students wearing extremely short shorts, cut off t-shirts, etc. might be okay at the beach...it IS NOT acceptable at an FFA event.

## CONTEST ATTIRE AND MEMBER INFORMATION

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>CONTEST ATTIRE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF SCORES COUNTED IN TEAM SCORE</b>
<b>Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Agricultural Communications</b>	Official FFA Dress	4	4
<b>Agricultural Sales</b>	Official FFA Dress	4	4
<b>Agronomy</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Dairy Cattle Management and Evaluation</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Dairy Cattle Handler</b>	Official FFA Dress	1	N/A
<b>Environmental and Natural Resources</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Farm Business Management</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Floriculture</b>	Official FFA Dress	4	4
<b>Food Science and Technology</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Forestry</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Horse Evaluation</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Livestock Evaluation</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Marketing Plan</b>	Official FFA Dress	3	Team Event
<b>Meats Evaluation and Technology</b>	Official FFA Dress	4	4
<b>Milk Quality and Products</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Nursery/Landscape</b>	Official FFA Dress	4	4
<b>Poultry Evaluation</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Veterinary Science</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4
<b>Wildlife</b>	See Contest Rules	4	4

## STATE CDE COMPETITION ENTRY RULES

- A) All QUALIFYING and NON-QUALIFYING State FFA CDE entries must be entered on-line before the deadline. All contest entries and payments must be made on-line.
- B) Chapters need to ‘qualify’ in a regional contest in order to enter specific CDE contests. NOTE: This changes from year to year. Please verify which contests require qualification entry required on the state CDE page. Once your team competes at a qualification contest, an actual list of teams that qualified, a designation will be made on that list; then you, the adviser, can enter those students into the state contest registration program. Chapter’s teams of students are not automatically entered into the registration program. These names are reviewed by the CDE Coordinators by actually going through the list.
- C) State team may only have ONE CONTESTANT CHANGE from the team that qualifies. You can qualify with three team members but all State contests will count all four team member scores for the team total.

### QUALIFYING TEAMS

Each of the qualifying contests has a percentage of teams that qualify for the State Contest. This percentage may be adjusted year to year so that the State contests don’t become too crowded. The percentage is applied to only those complete teams who are trying to qualify (no partial, practice or out of state teams are counted). Teams could participate at multiple regional/qualification CDE events (if the regional events are open to all), however ONLY 1 team from each school will be allowed to participate in the in-person CDE state contest. Refer to General CDE rules #7 for virtual state CDEs.

State winning teams are eligible to advance to the National FFA contests held at the National FFA Convention. (except for Wildlife, where there is no National contest)

In Wisconsin, we have two levels of CDEs. Area contests – these contests may or may not have all 16 contest areas. In some of the CDEs, a team must ‘qualify’ at an Area contest to compete at the State contest. This qualification happens at the Area contest. Each Area Contest has their own registration. Links to the Area contests are on the state FFA CDE [webpage](#).