



WI State FFA CDE Handbook

Middle School CDE

Revised Spring 2026

The Wisconsin FFA Middle School Career Development Events (CDEs) are designed to introduce students to the many career areas found in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR). These contests allow middle school students to explore and preview the high school Career Development Events while building basic knowledge and interest in agricultural careers.

The Middle School CDEs focus on fundamental concepts and identification skills, including:

- Understanding basic agricultural terms and vocabulary.
- Identifying common plants, animals, tools, and equipment used in agriculture and natural resources.
- Recognizing simple concepts related to how plants and animals grow, how food is produced, and how natural resources are managed.
- Learning basic laws, safety guidelines, and general rules related to agriculture and conservation.
- Becoming familiar with current topics and everyday issues in agriculture at a beginner level.

The middle school contests are designed to preview the major state-level Career Development Events in a simple, age-appropriate format. Students will explore:

Animal Science - (*Poultry, Veterinary Science, Horse Evaluation, Livestock and Dairy Cattle Evaluation*) Basic knowledge of animals, breeds, care, products, and evaluation across multiple species.

Plant & Soil Science - (*Agronomy, Forestry, Nursery & Landscape, Floriculture*) Understanding common crops, plants, trees, weeds, tools, and soils found in Wisconsin.

Agricultural Business & Communications - (*Farm Business Management, Agricultural Sales, Agricultural Communications*) Basic ideas about how agricultural businesses work, how products are marketed, and how information is shared.

Environmental Science & Wildlife - (*Environmental Science, Wildlife*) Introductory concepts about Wisconsin wildlife, ecosystems, forestry, and conservation practices.

Food Science & Milk Quality - (*Food Science & Technology, Milk Quality & Products, and Meat Evaluation & Technology*) Basic food safety, product identification (milk products, cheeses, meats), quality traits, and simple sensory or evaluation concepts.

Agricultural Mechanics - (*Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems*) Simple tool identification, shop and equipment safety, measurement, and introductory ag technology.

Event Rules

The complete rules, policies and procedures relevant to all Wisconsin FFA Career and Leadership Development Events (LDE) may be found in the Guide to CDE and LDE Policies and Procedures.

- Teams will consist of four members and all 4 scores make up the team score.
- All teams are NOT required to compete at a regional live qualification contest (River Falls, Mid-State, or Fox Valley) .
- All teams are able to register and compete at the State LIVE CDE Contest.
- All team members must be active members in the WI FFA and in 7th or 8th grade.
- All teams are expected to be checked-in prior to the contest start time of 9:00 a.m. The contest takes approximately 3-4 hours to complete.
- Based upon registration numbers, there may be 2 heats for the Middle Schools CDE. Teams will be assigned to a specific heat time.
- All members of the team will participate in a general knowledge examination, Identification and team practicum.
- Contestant dress is “school appropriate” Official dress or special clothing is NOT needed.

Event Format

Contest Components will consist of following sections:

The contest will consist of three parts:

1) Written Examination

- 50 test questions will relate to general agriculture information covering the topics listed on CDE website, all questions will come from the [2026 Middle School Test Bank](#)
- Some questions may include photos, identification materials, and math problems. All questions will be multiple choice and valued at 2 points.
- Answer will need to be recorded on the [scantron](#) in the Exam area

2) Identification

- Identification will consist of identifying 50 items from the [2026 ID List](#)
- Under NO circumstances are the contestants to touch the materials that will be present for the identification of the contest!!
- Identification may include pictures, fake or simulated items or actual items.
- Contestants will have 30-60 seconds to complete each Identification complete with recording numeric answers on the [scantron sheet](#) in the identification A area (on the back).
- Value of 3 points each per item/questions

3) Practicum

- Each year 1-2 practicums will be completed as individual or team events.
- Each year a practicum focus area(s) will be chosen before the contest allowing contestant time to prepare.
- Rubrics and study guides will be provided.
- Team members MAY work together or independently to complete the practicums, this will be determined at the direction of the contest superintendents.

Scoring of the Contest/Team Make Up

- 1) A 50 question general knowledge exam (2 points each = 100pts)
- 2) 50 items to be identified (3 points each = 150 pts)
- 3) 1 Team Practicum (100 points each)

The 2026 Team Practicum will focus on

1) Plant Propagation

Plant Propagation (Cuttings) Guide - 2026

Equipment

Needed: Teams are expected to bring their own pencils, clip board, and basic calculators.

Any participant in possession of an electronic device (besides simple calculator) during any portion of the contest is subject to disqualification.

Team Activities

Team activity practicums may be part of the Middle School CDE Event. Team members usually work together to complete the activities, but the practicums may be completed as individuals. This is at the discretion for the CDE Superintendent and will be announced before the event begins.

SCORING

PHASE	Individual Points	Team Points
1) General Knowledge Exam	100	400
2) Agriculture Identification	150	600
3) Team Activity Practicum #1	0	100
TOTAL	250	1,200- 1,400

TIEBREAKERS:

Individual If ties occur, the following events will be used in the listed order to determine award recipients: 1. Written exam 2. Identification 3. Team Activity #1 practicum. The higher score is used to break the tie.

Team If ties occur, the following events will be used in the listed order to determine award recipients: 1. Team activity #1 2. Team activity #2 3. Identification. The higher score is used to break the tie.

Awards

The top placing team and individual will receive a trophy at the State FFA Convention. Additional awards may be offered.