



Awards and Recognition Program Notification

Updated: 06/2019

The National FFA Organization provides information on an annual basis regarding awards and recognition areas for the upcoming calendar year. We are pleased to announce that the National FFA Organization will provide the following programs with changes in 2020:

CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

CDEs and LDEs are open to all grade levels of active membership (grades 7-12 at the time of qualifying) except for the Conduct of Chapter Meetings and Creed Speaking LDEs. Please review the program handbooks located on FFA.org. The following events will be offered in 2020.

Career Development Events

- Agricultural Communications CDE
- Agricultural Sales CDE
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems CDE
- Agronomy CDE
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management CDE
- Environmental and Natural Resources CDE
- Farm & Agribusiness Management CDE
- Floriculture CDE
- Food Science and Technology CDE
- Forestry CDE
- Horse Evaluation CDE
- Livestock Evaluation CDE
- Marketing Plan CDE
- Meats Evaluation and Technology CDE
- Milk Quality and Products CDE
- Nursery/Landscape CDE
- Poultry CDE
- Veterinary Science CDE

Leadership Development Events

- Agricultural Issues Forum LDE
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDE
- Creed Speaking LDE
- Employment Skills LDE
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking LDE
- Parliamentary Procedure LDE
- Prepared Public Speaking LDE

Activity

- Dairy Handlers Activity

CDE/LDE Program Adjustments for 2020

Cash Award Adjustments—Employment Skills

We will be adjusting the cash awards at the national level to be consistent across all individual competition areas. All of the individual LDEs will have awards for the 1st through 4th place as indicated below.

1st - \$1,000

2nd- \$900

3rd- \$800

4th- \$700

No cash awards will be given for rankings below 4th place in the individual competitions (LDEs).

Number of Team Members —Meats Evaluation and Technology CDE

We will be adjusting for consistency in the career and leadership development events for students that compete as individuals and as a team. Events will require four-member teams with all four scores being a part of the team score. This will impact the Meats Evaluation and Technology CDE. This event will move from a three-member team to a four-member team in 2020.

This change has no impact on those team events, whereas members are scored solely as a team, i.e., agricultural issues forum, conduct of chapter meetings, marketing plan, and parliamentary procedure.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cde-lde/>

PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Application Update

Minor application updates will take place to accommodate online/electronic submission of proficiency award applications for national competition. Hard copy applications will no longer be required for national competition.

Available Proficiency Award Areas

The following 45 proficiency award areas will be offered in 2020. Updated proficiency award area descriptions will be released the fall of 2019.

- Agricultural Communication
 - Agricultural Education
 - Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication
 - Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship
 - Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Placement
 - Agricultural Processing
 - Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship
 - Agricultural Sales - Placement
 - Agricultural Services
 - Agriscience Research – Animals Systems
 - Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems
 - Agriscience Research – Plant Systems
 - Beef Production - Entrepreneurship
 - Beef Production - Placement
 - Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship
 - Dairy Production - Placement
 - Diversified Agricultural Production
 - Diversified Crop - Entrepreneurship
 - Diversified Crop - Placement
 - Diversified Horticulture
 - Diversified Livestock Production
 - Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management
 - Equine Science – Entrepreneurship
 - Equine Science - Placement
 - Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production
 - Forage Production
 - Forest Management
 - Fruit Production
 - Goat Production
 - Grain Production
 - Landscape Management
 - Nursery Operations
 - Outdoor Recreation
 - Poultry Production
 - Service-Learning
 - Sheep Production
 - Small Animal Production and Care
 - Specialty Crop Production
 - Specialty Animal Production
 - Swine Production - Entrepreneurship
 - Swine Production - Placement
 - Turf Grass Management
 - Vegetable Production
 - Veterinary Science
 - Wildlife Management
- The home and/or community development area will be updated to the service-learning area to recognize the service-learning supervised agricultural experience (SAE) type described in SAE for All. The award area description will be based on that SAE type.
 - The food science and technology area has merged with other areas due to lack of participation and sponsorship.
 - The grain production – entrepreneurship and placement areas will be combined due to lack of participation and sponsorship.

Free Chapter Medals Program

The free-medal request program will be discontinued at the end of 2019 or when current supplies are exhausted. Chapters may continue to order online through Shop FFA to request these medals while supplies last.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/proficiencies/>

AGRISCIENCE FAIR

Application Update

Minor application updates will take place to accommodate online/electronic submission of agriscience fair applications for national competition.

Category Structure 2017-21

- Animal Systems
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Plant Systems
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems
- Social Science

Division Structure

- Division 1 – Individuals in grades 7 and 8
- Division 2 – Teams of two in grades 7 and 8

- Division 3 – Individuals in grades 9 and 10
- Division 4 – Teams of two in grades 9 and 10
- Division 5 – Individuals in grades 11 and 12
- Division 6 – Teams of two in grades 11 and 12

Number of National Finalist

Beginning in 2020, the number of finalists will move from 12 to 10. This change was determined as the result of a program review, including an assessment of a three-year average of participation at the national level.

Reminders:

- At the national level, once a student places in the top three of a division and category, he/she can no longer compete in that same division and category. (see page 10 in the [handbook](#)).
- Please refer to the [handbook](#) for all information regarding display requirements, categories, divisions, scoresheets, rubrics, etc.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/agriculture-fair/>

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD PROGRAM

Application Update

Minor application updates will take place to accommodate online/electronic submission of national chapter applications for national competition.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/national-chapter/>

AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

No major changes are planned to the American FFA Degree application or program. Please review the following resources to help determine appropriate SAE and community service activities:

- [SAE for All](#)
- [Community Service Guidelines for FFA Degrees](#)
- [American FFA Degree Manual Review Sheet – 2019 ver.](#)

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/american-ffa-degree/>.

AMERICAN STAR AWARDS

Minor application updates will take place to accommodate online/electronic judging.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/american-star-awards/>

NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR STATE AWARDS

In place of state plaques and individual checks made payable to state winners, starting in 2020 each state association will be provided with a single payment that can be used to support state-level award programs. Each state allocation will be based on the three year average of national level participation in national awards and recognition programs and the available funds budgeted. These funds will be distributed to each state within the first quarter of the year. This change will allow states to determine how best to recognize students at the state level for their accomplishments in the award and recognition program areas. Funds can be used to support cash awards, plaques, or other types of recognition to fit the needs of your state. Additional state information, including your state allocation for 2020, will be sent to state staff by July 1.

REVISION PROCESS UPDATE

Over the last year, we have solicited feedback from multiple stakeholders that has been valuable in helping us to plan and prepare for making updates to our award and recognition programs. Starting in 2020, we will continue to annually review all programs and make updates to the programs as needed to ensure programs are relevant and meeting the overall objectives for each events. As part of the revision process, we will dive deeper into the “why” to define the philosophical direction for awards and competitive events by engaging stakeholders in a “Think Tank” session. The results of this meeting will help guide and direct the in-depth review of each program area. We will continue to share updates as the process continues. In addition, we will continue to share program updates and offerings through annual communication during the first week of June. If you have specific questions regarding the revision process, please contact Rebecca Carter, team leader, awards and recognition team at rcarter@ffa.org.