Proficiency Judging
2020

GOLD
State Winner
- Shows the greatest competency achievement and/or entry into the industry
- Generally the most complete and correct application

GOLD
- High degree of correctness, completion, and skill attainment
- The number of "Golds" is **pre-determined**
- There can be only **two** "Golds" per chapter in a given area (Exception: **Three** "Golds" can be given if there are 20 or more applications in a given area)

SILVER
- Somewhat less complete but shows progress toward career goals
- Generally have lower level skill attainment
- May have more accounting errors

BRONZE
- Not as complete, but show evidence of skill attainment.
- Programs may be of limited size and/or scope when compared to the top groups of applications
- Generally have accounting errors
- The application may not fit the proficiency area in which they applied

PARTICIPANT
- Very incomplete
- Shows significant accounting errors
- The application may not fit the proficiency area in which they applied
- Student does not have a full year of records. One calendar year of records is required to be eligible.

Sectional
Winners
- The highest ranking gold or silver application from each section

When determining if an applicant should be silver or bronze, if one person thinks it's a silver and the other two say bronze, the applicant is a silver.

If an application is received past the application deadline, it will be deducted points and will be moved to the next lowest award ranking. For example, if the application is a gold application it will be ranked silver.

All applications ranked "Participant" will be reviewed by the review committee to determine its final placing. If the committee feels that there is any part of the application that allows it to move to the bronze category, it will be bronze as long as the student meets all eligibility requirements to apply.

The points assigned to the various areas of the application must be strictly adhered to!

Please remember:

1. Score sheets are available to evaluate the applications. Please use this in ranking your applications. Using the scoring rubic helps to make sure you know how many points are assigned to each area. There may be a mistake in the application but it could only be worth a few points so make sure to judge based on the scoring rubic.

2. Remember that score sheets should be used as a discussion tool to determine the final rank of the applications. Judges will need to determine those that are in the gold, silver and bronze categories. **Each judge in an area will individually rank the top five gold applications and provide this information on a ballot to Terry Bernick. The Review Committee will review the final outcome. If there are concerns, the Review Committee will come back to the initial group of judges. Results for the top five will be noted as State Finalists on the published result sheet. Judges are asked to keep the ranking of the top five applicants confidential.** Applications 6th place gold and lower will be noted at the judges table on the result sheet.

3. Each application will have a scoring rubric. Note color of rubric based on area you are judging.
   Entrepreneurship (Yellow) Placement (Green)   Combined (Blue)   Agriscience (Purple)

4. No consideration or point value is given to the notebook or covers.

5. No discrimination against computer generated errors. There may be some computer issues that the student had in generating their final application. We will not deduct points for computer errors.

6. If the application has a blank space where a number should appear, evaluate it as a "0". Some applications have a "0" present and others not.   We do not discriminate between the two.

7. There is no longer a required employer or instructor's statement. If there is one included it can be used as the supplemental page. However if there is an extra page added this will need to be removed and not judged. These points have been added to the Performance A section.

8. There should be no more than 6 photos, no larger than 3 1/2" X 5" or 4" X 6", with captions. No alterations of any kind are permitted. Altering of photo pages makes the application subject to disqualification. Committee members may deduct up to the 5 points if other supplemental materials are added to the application. Please note: An application with a 7th photo, may be using this as their personal page. **NOTE:** Photos used with a watermark or taken from a website that is not an original photo of the student may disqualify a student. Please consult staff if you have concerns.

9. The Supplemental Page can include newspaper clippings, additional support statements and/or recommendations, additional photographs, copies of licenses or certifications, charts and/or graphs and advertisements are appropriate. This is now uploaded as part of the proficiency application.

10. Electronic or manual signatures are now accepted. We are not going to penalize anyone for problems with signatures as this is a new process. If there is a NOT MET indicated for the signatures, we will not penalize any student for this.

11. No special consideration should be given to applications based on how they organize their text. They may use bullets or they may use paragraph form. Either is fine, it is the substance of the statement and information that truly matters.

12. Please seek permission from FFA Staff and Proficiency Review Panel before giving a participant award or disqualifying an application.

13. If the state winner is a graduate, they must have completed 3 years of agriculture while in high school. Students can only apply one year out of high school. Note this when ranking your final applications.

14. A student applying for a proficiency award must have one full year of SAE records to be eligible.

15. No discussions permitted with advisors of the students competing. (For example, as judges you may not ask the advisor of an applicant to clarify anything just because they are available here in the room.)

16. Carefully review the application to consider only the portion of the SAE that truly fits the area.