

Veterinary Science



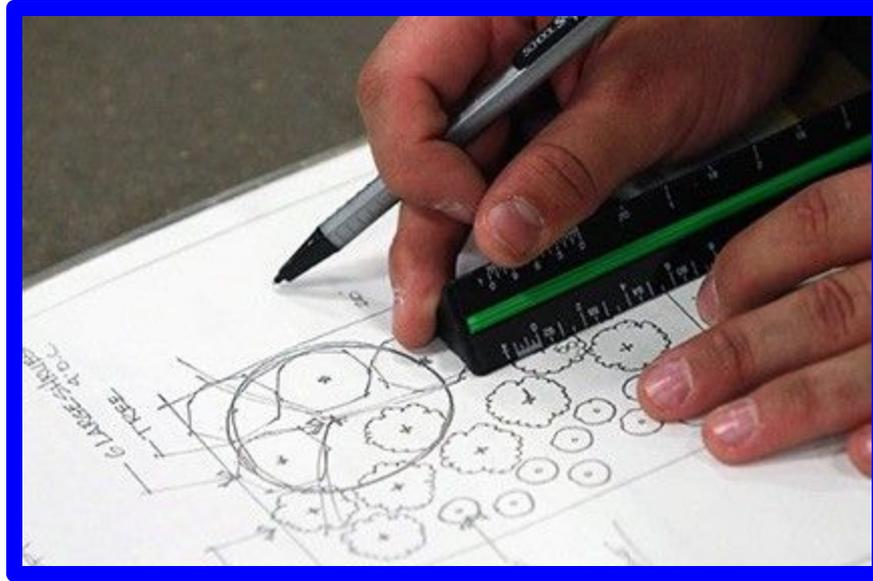
In the **Veterinary Science Career Development Event (CDE)**, students working in teams demonstrate their technical competency with small and large animals by completing a written exam, critical-thinking scenario questions, identifications and hands-on practicums.

Poultry Evaluation



Participants in the **Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE)** select live meat-type chickens for broiler breeding, evaluate and place live egg-type hens, and rate the finished product by evaluating and grading ready-to-cook carcasses and parts of chickens and turkeys.

Nursery Landscape



Participants in the **Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event (CDE)** tests students skills in maintaining landscape plants and related products, evaluating equipment and services and performing landscape design.

Milk Quality & Products



Participants in the **Milk Quality and Products Career Development Event (CDE)** demonstrate their knowledge about the quality production, processing, distribution, promotion and marketing of milk and dairy foods.

Meats Evaluation & Technology



Participants in the **Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event (CDE)** delve into the science of meat. During this team event, students evaluate beef carcasses for quality and yield grade; identify various meat cuts and place carcasses; and identify wholesale and/or retail cuts.

This event is ideal for students who are interested in exploring or pursuing career opportunities in the meat animal industry. Students are challenged to develop analytical skills, critical-thinking strategies and effective communication skills.

Marketing Plan

In the **Marketing Plan Career Development Event (CDE)** participants develop practical marketing skills while creating and presenting a marketing plan for a local agribusiness.

In this competitive CDE, teams of three students research and present a marketing plan for an agricultural product, supply or service in front of a panel of judges. The plan should provide a reasonable and logical solution to a marketing problem.

Although only three individuals are on a team, any number of students may assist with the primary and secondary research. This CDE allows students to explore and prepare for possible careers in agrimarketing and develop partnerships within agriculture, their local FFA chapters and with the community.



Livestock Evaluation

During the **Livestock Evaluation Career**

Development Event (CDE), students work within teams to rank breeding and market classes of beef, sheep and swine and give oral reasons to back up their decisions.

Students participating in this CDE make accurate and logical observations of livestock, decide on the desirable traits in marketing and breeding livestock, and select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers.

Understanding what makes a good market or breeding beef, sheep or swine is valuable knowledge for the decisions every livestock producer has to make. This CDE also encourages students to communicate proficiently, interpret data and work as a team — skills that translate into other career opportunities.



Horse Evaluation

Students who participate in the National FFA **Horse Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE)** gain new insights into equine science by evaluating and ranking horses based on breed characteristics, conformation and performance. Participants defend their decisions through oral reasons in front of a panel of judges.



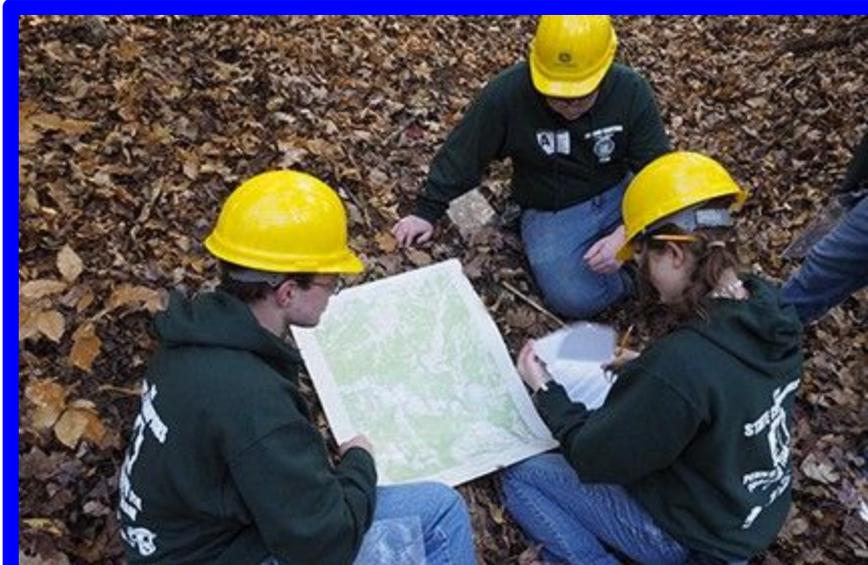
In this team CDE, students solve problems related to everything from the nutrition and reproduction of horses to the tack/equipment and feed used to care for horses. Participants strengthen their leadership, observation, analysis, critical thinking and communication skills while also developing and exercising a competitive team spirit and building an awareness of career opportunities within the equine industry.

The **Forestry Career Development Event (CDE)** requires students to demonstrate their skills in diagnosing forest disorders, managing forests and forest inventory and applying approved silviculture practices. Participation in the event offers students experience relevant to a career choice in forestry and natural resources.

A team event for four students, this CDE provides recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies resulting from forestry instruction in the agricultural education classroom. The team portion of the event calls on students respond to a forest industry scenario with problem solving using forestry skills and tools. The team also provides a presentation about a national or regional forestry issue. Team members contribute individually by completing a general forestry knowledge exam, rounds of tree identification and measurement, and individual practicums.

Skills learned from this event range from forestry equipment identification to calculating a forest business management problem and prepare students for a variety of careers in forestry and natural resources.

Forestry



Food Science & Technology

The **Food Science and Technology Career Development Event (CDE)** requires students to have an in-depth understanding of food product development, food presentation and food safety issues. Participants also use their sensory skills to solve problems and make sound decisions.

Students in this event participate in both team and individual activities. As a team, students respond to a product development scenario describing the need for a new or redesigned product that appeals to a potential market segment. The team's task is to design a new food product or reformulate an existing product based on information contained within the product development scenario. The team also completed a food safety and sanitation activity. As individuals, an objective test, a problem solving practicum and a food safety practicum are completed to count towards the team score.

This event reaches students in an area of agriculture that's continuing to grow in all aspects. By exposing students to issues in food science and technology, students gain experience that prepares them for traditional and non-traditional careers.





The **Floriculture Career Development Event (CDE)** requires students to identify plants, judge flower arrangements and solve problems. Participants also demonstrate skills in flower arranging, propagation and the preparation of floral and foliage products for sale.

This four-person team event is designed to create an interest in career preparation for all current and future aspects of the floriculture industry through leadership development and hands on technical skill development using industry standards that are delivered through the agricultural education curriculum. Teams are judged on their ability to perform an assignment similar to one routinely performed in the floriculture industry. Additionally, individual members are called up to contribute to the team's effort by completing events such as a general floriculture examination, an identification of plant materials and equipment, a problem-solving exercise, a practicum, a job interview and a floral arrangement.

Floriculture

This event builds skills that are important to careers in greenhouse and field production management, garden center and floral shop management and floral design management. Students who excel show a well-rounded knowledge of horticulture, the cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants and the floral industry.

The **Farm and Agribusiness Management Career Development Event (CDE)** helps students learn business skills and apply economic principles to agricultural businesses. By competing, participants demonstrate their ability to analyze agricultural business management information, apply economic principles and concepts of business management, evaluate business management decisions and work together cooperatively as a team.

This team CDE requires four members to collaborate through decision-making and problem analysis skills to reach a final written or oral report. Additionally, each team participant completes an individual written activity. The four team members' scores plus the team activity score count toward the total team score.

Students competing in this event gain a wide appreciation of farm and agribusiness practices, ranging from business structure to succession planning and from cost concepts to risk management.



Farm & Agribusiness Management

Environmental & Natural Resources



The **Environmental and National Resources Career Development Event (CDE)** provides competing students an opportunity gain awareness and demonstrate knowledge in areas that affect our air, soil and water. Competitors interpret data, use measuring devices in the field and work through real-life scenarios involving environmental threats in pursuit of scoring the highest as a team and individual.

Each team consisting of four FFA members competes in all types of weather conditions – just like professionals working the environmental and natural resource industry – in pursuit of recognition for demonstrating skills relevant to GPS navigation, soil science, water management and wildlife conservation. The competitors produce written statements and an oral presentation, and must exhibit competency via writing and identification activities.

Through these challenges, students develop interest and knowledge in sustainable management of our environment and will become the future stewards of resources critical to the future of agriculture.

Dairy Cattle Handlers



Through participation in the **Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity**, students learn to work with others in a way that is cooperative, courteous and helpful while demonstrating effective dairy handling skills.

Students in this activity present animals for evaluation as part of the Dairy Cattle Management and Evaluation Career Development Event. Handlers earn recognition for their ability to set up their assigned animal to its best advantage, maintain the animal in its most advantageous post, exhibit effective restraint and move the animal as requested by the event ringmaster. Each state is allowed just one participant in this activity.

Poise, calmness and a positive attitude play a significant role in gaining success in the Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity.



Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management

The **Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management Career Development Event (CDE)** helps students develop skills in dairy cattle selection and herd management. Participants evaluate the cattle's physical characteristics, explain their various classes and analyze a herd record as a team.

Teams of our four students develop skills in observation, analysis, communication and team communication through this competitive CDE. Each participant contributes to the team's total score through both team and individual activities. For the team exercise, judges provide a dairy farm management scenario with problems and solutions that must be identified as if they were a hired consultant advising a dairy producer. As individuals, team members complete a general knowledge exam, evaluate and select six dairy animal classes, and provide oral reasons.

Students in this event gain a greater understanding of dairy cattle management and become knowledgeable in areas that include animal welfare, biosecurity, business management, current issues, environmental management and safety practices.

Agronomy



The **Agronomy Career Development Event (CDE)** challenges students to build and demonstrate knowledge in the wide field of agronomy. Participation grants students exposure to many ways that science and technology collaborate to grow the world's major food crops.

Teams of four students in this event evaluate a agronomic scenario and develop a crop management plan that includes crop selection, production, problem-solving and marketing. Individually, the team members also complete an agronomic knowledge exam, identify and analyze plant and soil types, evaluate commodity quality, demonstrate pest management and equipment knowledge, and discuss an agronomic issue important to crop production.

Students in this event demonstrate an understanding of sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship while learning the fundamentals of the many fields that holistically come together to successfully produce field crops.

Ag. Technology & Mechanical Systems



The **Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems Career Development Event (CDE)** helps students develop technical knowledge and an ability to work with others to solve complex agricultural problems. The event is built around students learning and executing a "systems approach" – or the process of understanding how solving one problem influences others.

Teams in this event consist of four students that solve a multi-system agricultural problem scenario. The team works to solve the problem and prepare a report while judges evaluate. Additionally, individuals complete a written exam that covers five agricultural technology and mechanical areas: compact equipment, electricity, environment and natural resources, machinery and equipment and structures.

Students and teams that perform the highest in this CDE demonstrate a mastery of systems areas subject matter, effective communication skills, superior problem-solving techniques and an understanding of modern technology.

Agricultural Sales

Students competing in the **Agricultural Sales Career Development Event (CDE)** gain experience and skills essential to the production and marketing of agricultural products. The team event illustrates related careers and offers a firsthand look at developing product knowledge and driving sales.

Each team in the Agricultural Sales CDE consists of four students with each person's effort contributing to the team's final score. Teams are provided an example product, product information and customer profiles at the start of the event from which they collaboratively develop a sales plan. Judges then evaluate the collaboration process and the team's final sales plan. Individuals also complete a written exam that tests sales concept knowledge.

This CDE is particularly suited to students interested in future careers involving sales and marketing, while also growing student skills in customer relations, advertising and sales concepts.



Participants in the **Agricultural Communications Career Development Event (CDE)** work as a team of communication consultants to develop a written media plan, present the plan to a panel of judges, and, as individuals, apply what they have learned during practicums, a quiz and editing exercise.

This team CDE challenges students to communicate effectively while advocating to consumers about agriculture and telling the FFA story. Students will use a variety of media in their plans—social media, broadcast and print advertising, press releases, fliers, brochures, blogging, displays and more.

Communication, collaboration, creativity and presentation skills are important to event success. Students also learn a variety of technical skills such as journalistic and opinion writing, website design, video production, social media and more.

Agricultural Communication



Prepared Public Speaking



During the **Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event (LDE)**, students write and deliver a six to eight-minute speech about a current agriculture-related topic.

Students research a topic of interest and then put together a creative, informative speech. The speech is then presented to a panel of judges, who score the student based on the speech's content, composition and delivery.

Students participating in the **Extemporaneous Public Speaking Leadership Development Event** showcase their agricultural knowledge and ability to think on their feet by giving a speech and answering questions with limited prep time.

During this event, participants draw from 12 agricultural topics then select three of interest. From those three, a student selects the topic of their speech and has 30 minutes to prepare using five resources. Participants then present a four to six-minute speech on their topic to a panel of judges. After their speech, students answer five minutes worth of questions on the topic they just presented.

This event challenges students to practice their presentation skills, articulation, and logical thinking and advocate for agriculture and agricultural education.



Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Parliamentary Procedure



Students participating in the **Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event (LDE)** are evaluated on their ability to conduct an orderly and efficient meeting using parliamentary procedure.

Participants are judged on their knowledge of parliamentary law and their ability to present logical, realistic and convincing debate and motions.

Participants in the National FFA **Employment Skills Leadership Development Event (LDE)** get a leg up on their future careers by developing the skills needed to seek employment in the industry of agriculture.

This LDE simulates real-world activities used by employers and tests students' ability to perform effectively throughout the employment process. Students submit a cover letter and resume; complete an application and a telephone interview; and participate in a preliminary face-to-face interview. Students also experience a networking activity that could include an elevator pitch, a meal function or participating at a trade show event and receive a telephone offer where they negotiate for their job opportunity.

In this LDE, students will use many leadership skills including active listening, problem-solving and decision making as well as improve their written and oral communication skills. This event also helps students in their current search for jobs, internships, and part-time and full-time employment in any career field.

Employment Skills





Creed Speaking

"I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds..." The National FFA **Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event (LDE)** recognizes outstanding FFA members in seventh through ninth grades for their ability to present the National FFA Creed from memory and answer three questions related to it.

The FFA Creed outlines the organization's values and beliefs regarding the industry of agriculture, FFA membership, and citizenship and patriotism. Students participating in the Creed Speaking LDE learn to communicate in a powerful, organized and professional manner and build self-confidence.

Conduct of Chapter Meetings



The **Conduct of Chapter Meetings Leadership**

Development Event (CDE) introduces FFA members to parliamentary procedure as they learn how to conduct efficient meetings and build their communication skills.

Designed for FFA members in seventh, eighth and ninth grade, this LDE challenges a team of seven students from one chapter to demonstrate correct use of FFA opening and closing ceremonies. Students will learn to communicate and participate effectively as a team while growing skills in effective decision making.

Members assume various officer duties (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel and advisor) during the event presentation that is evaluated by a team of judges. Additionally, each participant is challenged by a written exam about officer duties, meeting room preparation and parliamentary procedure.



Ag. Issues Forum

Participants in the **Agricultural Issues Forum Leadership Development Event (LDE)** research the pros and cons of an agricultural issue and present their findings to a panel of judges.

This team LDE challenges students to investigate a variety of current local, state, national and international issues facing agriculture through classroom instruction. Students then demonstrate through portfolio, presentation and questioning an understanding of the principles and fundamentals of agricultural issue analysis.

Communication, leadership and teamwork skills are critical to event success. This event connects agriculture students with professionals in the industry as they research, present and then understand complicated issues facing the agricultural landscape – making it especially attractive to students with an interest in agricultural policy, law and international relations.