

Ag Issues & Perceptions CDE

This is a LEADERSHIP CDE.

2013 Chairperson: Pat Powers, Eddyville

2013 Assistants: Cathy Doorneweerd, Inwood & Alyssa Louwsma, Pella

I. Overview

The purpose of this event is to give students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned during the past year while studying “Agricultural Issues” as a part of their agricultural education program.

This is a District, State & National Level Event.

II. Rules

The rules governing District and State events, in addition to those for all events, are as follows:

1. The number of members on each discussion team will be three to seven (3-7). A person who talks is considered a team member.
2. Two (2) teams from each district will advance to the state event.
3. The state event may consist of preliminary and final rounds depending on the number of entries.
4. Each team member will role play a career category, the list of which will be determined in advance of the district event. Teams will determine which member will play each role. Career categories may be similar to, but not limited to, the following:
 - Board Chairperson: Local Political Person
 - Farm Manager: Landowner/Farmer Landowner
 - Ag Professional: Technical Person, Farm Supply Manager/Field person
 - Environmentalist: DNR, Regulatory Affairs Manager
 - Consumer: Concerned Citizen
 - Moderator: Ag Ed Instructor, Regional Extension Director
5. Each discussion team will be limited to the following sequence and time allotment:
 - Introduction of participant teams and judges and announcement of the topic by the event moderator.
 - An opening statement given by the team facilitator.
 - A **maximum of fifteen (15) minutes** for the team discussion regardless of how time is spent.
 - The presenters will receive a signal at ten (10) minutes and fourteen (14) minutes. At fifteen (15) minutes the timekeeper will announce that time is up, and the presentation will end.
 - Seven (7) minutes for judges’ questions of the discussion team will be allowed.
6. Each team member will discuss the issue from the perspective of the position he or she holds. Someone from the team is responsible to keep order and to provide an opportunity for all on the team to speak.
7. It is the responsibility of someone from the team to conclude the discussion with summary comments and recommendations with at least one (1) action step concerning resolution of the issue.
8. The winner of the state event will advance to the national level event.
9. Each team will select their own agricultural topic similar to the topics listed in the Resource Information section of this document.
10. Each team’s topic will stay the same between the District and State levels.

11. Each chapter must have a different topic each year.
12. The judges in each District shall designate the top two teams to compete in the State event. The judges shall also name an alternate.
13. The judges at the State level shall designate the top (1) team to compete at the National event. The judges shall also rank the top five (5) teams.

III. Resource Information

General Instructions To Teams

1. Preparation for the Event:
 - a) Become familiar with the discussion issue or issues assigned.
 - b) Learn as much as possible about the procedure of the FFA's Ag Issues Forum.
 - c) Study material relating to the issues from which event topics will be selected. Sources: Library; newspapers; magazines; farm organization policies; county, state and agricultural publications; and conversations with those having knowledge of the subject.
2. During the event:
 - Teams should consider using nameplates to identify to the judges, the role of each member: (i.e., Consumer Farm Supplier, Environmentalist, Moderator, etc.).
 - Listen carefully to other participants as they make arguments and suggestions.
 - Keep within time limit allowed for team discussion.
 - There should be a conflict of ideas, but not of personalities. Remember, this is a discussion forum, not a debate.
 - Try to determine whether there are enough facts presented and available in order to make a decision. What additional facts are needed and can be gathered- short term- long term?
 - Be aware of audience, but not to the exclusion of the discussion team. (Talk loudly enough to be heard by all of the audience.)
 - Be prepared to contribute ideas, state facts and opinions, and participate such that others become involved in the discussion.
 - Participate whenever it will contribute to furthering the discussion without monopolizing the time. Be enthusiastic and, in general, use logic rather than emotion. Be specific and concise with comments.
 - Make notes of key points as the discussion proceeds to assist in making a contribution of ideas and recommendations.
 - Facilitator or moderator of the team will summarize actions and recommendations as the discussion concludes.
 - In the past, some teams have enhanced their presentations with visual aids such as flip charts, example products, etc.

Example of Event Topics

Past topics have included food safety, livestock industry, and biotechnology. Following are topics to be used only as examples of issues that may be used in the Ag Issues and Perceptions Event:

1. How will the animal rights movement affect agriculture? What do farmers have to gain or lose from the animal protection movement? What strategies could producers use to create a more balanced view and constructive approach to animal management?
2. What influences will growth hormones have on animal agriculture? What are the issues, which need to be addressed so that products of biotechnology, including growth hormones, are accepted as safe for animals and society?
3. How can producers manage nitrogen programs so that water supplies are protected from excess nitrate levels?

4. What can be done to ensure that herbicide resistance technology can be employed so that weed resistance does not become a problem?
5. How can the general public be assured that biotechnology applications in crop production represent sound new technology representing acceptable risk?
6. How can the public be assured that pesticide use does not represent unacceptable risk to our food supply or the environment?
7. What is reasonable policy regarding wetlands, and at what point does it become a farmers' rights issue?
8. How shall CRP land classified as highly erodible be managed as it is returned to crop production?
9. How has conservation compliance affected farmers and will full implementation represent a problem to farmers with highly erodible land on a majority of his or her acreage?

IV. Awards

District:	Chapters:	FFA Certificate	(Awarded in Chapter Packets at DLC)
	Individuals:	FFA Certificates	(Awarded in Chapter Packets at DLC)
State:	Chapters:	FFA Certificate	(Awarded in Chapter Packets at SLC)
	Individuals:	FFA Certificates	(Awarded in Chapter Packets at SLC)
	Champion Team:	Plaque	(Awarded on Stage at SLC)
		Cash Award	(Awarded in Chapter Packet at SLC)
		Travel Money	(Mailed from Foundation following SLC)
	Reserve Team:	Plaque	(Awarded on Stage at SLC)
		Cash Award	(Awarded in Chapter Packet at SLC)
	3 rd Team	Cash Award	(Awarded in Chapter Packet at SLC)
	4 th Team	Cash Award	(Awarded in Chapter Packet at SLC)
5 th Team	Cash Award	(Awarded in Chapter Packet at SLC)	

All awards subject to available sponsorship through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

V. Event Hosting Guidelines/Checklists

Needed Materials Checklist:

- _____ Ag Issues Judges Score Form on white (1 copy x 3 judges x Total Number of Teams)
- _____ General Critique Forms on blue (1 copy x 3 judges x Total Number of Teams)
- _____ Ag Issues Summary Form on yellow (1 copy)
- _____ 2 Tables for Judges
- _____ 3 Chairs for Judges
- _____ A/V Cart for electricity and projector(s)
- _____ 1 projector screen
- _____ "10 Minutes" Time Card
- _____ "14 Minutes" Time Card
- _____ Stopwatch
- _____ Pens/Pencils for Judges
- _____ Flashlights for Desk Lamps for Judges

VI. Scoring Rubrics/Judging Sheets

Ag Issues and Perceptions Career Development Event

Judges Score Form

Judge: _____

20 Points Available per category. Total of 100:
 20 = Superior
 16 = Excellent
 12 = Good
 8 = Fair
 4 = Poor

School PO (Town)						
	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6
How well did the team demonstrate understanding of how issues develop, how decisions are made, and influence perceptions have on society?						
How well did the team demonstrate understanding of both sides of an issue and how to deal with opposing views?						
How well did the team use facts and demonstrate understanding of risk tradeoffs in the decision making process?						
How well did the team maintain focus of discussion?						
How well did team members perform their assigned roles, present facts and issues, exhibit team work, and show good group interaction skill?						
Total Score						

Judge's Ag Issues & Perceptions FFA Event Summary

This form is to be used by Event Chairperson to report results of the judging.

Judge Names:

Event: **Ag Issues & Perceptions CDE**
 _____ Sub-District of _____ District
 District/State: _____
 Date of Event: _____

	School P.O. (Town)	Participant Name	Use letters to indicate ratings G - S - B - P			Total Points	G = Gold	S = Silver	B = Bronze	P = Participation	Advance to Next Event
			Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3						
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											

10 Minutes

14 Minutes