

General Information

I. Foreword

This booklet provides information for FFA members, advisors, and other on all FFA events and awards.

Educational objectives are of first importance in all events. New experiences, further incentives, new ideas, wider interests and more friends and acquaintances result from statewide activities.

FFA members and chapters are encouraged to participate in at least five of these events. Every member and every chapter should not attempt to participate in all activities and events. Awards are provided to encourage members to do more and thus “Learn by Doing.”

All information on National FFA Foundation Awards and National FFA events is tentative and subject to change in accordance with announcements by the National FFA Organization.

The FFA members in secondary Agricultural Education departments in Iowa are grateful to friends, organizations and business concerns for their support and encouragement.

II. The FFA

The FFA is the national organization of Agricultural Education students in public high schools. It was founded in 1928 and now has national membership in local high school chapters in 50 states Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam where vocational agribusiness programs are conducted under the National Vocational Education Acts.

The FFA is an integral part of vocational education in agriculture in public secondary schools. It is designed to provide training for agricultural careers, in leadership and in citizenship. Its efforts and objectives are directed toward the improvement of agriculture in our state and in our nation.

The Agricultural Education program in Iowa public schools is administered by local schools and the Bureau of Career & Technical Education of the State Department of Education. The Iowa FFA Association sponsors an annual state leadership conference, and varied activities and events in which members and chapters participate. Some events are conducted in cooperation with the National FFA Organization, the National FFA Foundation, Inc., Iowa FFA Foundation, other organizations, businesses, and industries.

III. “Active” FFA Chapters and Members

A chartered chapter in “good standing” with the Iowa FFA Association may participate in all district and state activities, events, meetings, and the state FFA Leadership Conferences. A chapter is in “good standing” when: (1) its state and national dues are paid by December 1;

(2) its membership report and annual program plan are submitted by December 1; (3) its Annual Report is submitted by July 1; (4) its constitution is not in conflict with the state constitution; and (5) it has at least 10 active members.

A chapter not complying with previously stated rules (1-5, item C, page 4) will not be eligible to participate in any sub-district, district, or state FFA events.

A FFA member is in “good standing” with the Iowa Association, FFA when he or she is an active member of a chartered chapter in “good standing” with his or her dues paid for the year. They may be an active member if they are enrolled in at least one secondary Agricultural Education course during the school year or follow a planned course of study for an agricultural career (including a supervised agricultural experience program), the objective of which is established in an agricultural occupation. They need also to show an interest in the affairs of the local chapter and conduct themselves in a manner becoming of a member of the organization. Members may retain their active membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduating from high school.

IV. Objectives

1. To stimulate the improvement of local FFA chapters and programs.
2. To improve the supervised agricultural experience programs of members.
3. To develop leadership and other abilities of FFA members.
4. To encourage the development of abilities needed to improve the community.
5. To provide awards and recognition for worthwhile achievements.
6. To promote the further development of Agricultural Education and the FFA in Iowa.

V. Rules for all State Events

1. All official FFA events are open to any chapter in “good standing” with the Iowa Association not later than **January 1**, except those departments operating for the first year which must be in “good standing” by March 1.
2. Participants’ names will be verified against official membership reports at the first level of competition above the local level. If a student’s name does not appear on the roster, then the State FFA Advisor or his/her designee will collect State and National FFA dues at the time of the event.
3. All FFA participants and official delegates must be active members and enrolled in high school Agricultural Education during the current year. Any exceptions that apply for an individual’s participation are listed under that separate event.
4. Candidates for the Iowa FFA Degree and American FFA Degree must be active members but do not need to have been in high school during the current year.

5. Participants in the following events may compete in only one sub-district, one district and one state FFA event, though they may serve as delegates or be candidates for the Iowa FFA Degree or American FFA Degree.
 - Ag Broadcasting
 - Ag CSI
 - Ag Impact
 - Ag Issues & Perceptions
 - Ag Sales (Individual)
 - Chapter Program
 - Chapter Website (Event Day Presenter)
 - Conduct of Meetings
 - Experience the Action
 - Extemporaneous Speaking
 - FFA Creed Speaking
 - Job Interview
 - Parliamentary Procedure
 - Public Speaking
6. Only one entry per chapter is permitted in each Leadership CDE, Skills CDE, agricultural proficiency area, and all other official sub-district, district, and state events. It is strongly recommended that local events be utilized to determine the local winner to broaden the base of competition at the local level.
7. If an entry in a leadership CDE is not able to advance, the designated alternate(s) will become the participant(s).
8. Members are eligible to participate for up to two years in the following CDEs on the sub-district/district level. Once they have participated in one of those events on the state level they are ineligible to participate in that event in future years.
 - Ag Broadcasting
 - Ag CSI
 - Ag Impact
 - Ag Issues & Perceptions
 - Ag Sales (Individual)
 - Chapter Program
 - Conduct of Meetings
 - Experience the Action
 - Extemporaneous Speaking
 - FFA Creed Speaking
 - Job Interview
 - Parliamentary Procedure
 - Public Speaking
9. All participants in the state final FFA events must be registered by the designated hour on the day of the events.
10. Conflicts in the order of appearance at any of the official events caused by extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on an individual basis by the State FFA Staff.
11. The chairperson, or designee, of each event will introduce each participant in each event at the time of the participant's appearance.

12. Participants should be neat in appearance. Official dress will be appropriate and highly recommended but not mandatory. In all leadership events, point deductions shall be allowed where appropriate for poor stage presence and/or personal appearance.
13. When Official Dress is not required, Official Casual Dress is recommended. Official Casual Dress consists of an FFA polo shirt or FFA t-shirt and jeans or khaki/dress pants.
14. Sportsmanlike conduct should be taught by advisors and demonstrated by both advisors and participants at all FFA events. A demonstration or incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct may result in suspension from the event.
15. No communication devices (cell phones, pagers, hand held computers, two-way radios, etc.) are to be used by the contestant from event check-in through the completion of the event. Exceptions may be made for some CDE presentations.
16. All written event applications including the Iowa FFA Degree MUST have all signatures required in all of the appropriate places.
17. On written applications, captions under pictures may be longer than 50 words as long as the font size is not changed from the standard. The caption may fill the given text box and no more.
18. All written applications for awards and degrees are to be submitted without the addition of extra (partial or full) pages of information, photos, or other materials except where additional materials are requested or duplication is permissible as specified on the application being submitted. For example: "Other Information" on Iowa FFA Degree applications and America FFA applications and "Project Story" on Agricultural Proficiency applications can only be explained in the limited space available.
19. Violation of any specific written rule in any application or event will result in elimination of the school from the event and/or receive a participation rating.
20. Any individual or team member that qualifies for advancement to National competition in an ag knowledge and skills/judging event may enter any other state ag knowledge and skills/judging event during the same calendar year.
21. If a team contains one person from a National qualifying team, the chapter may substitute this individual on the team because no individual(s) shall advance to national ag knowledge and skills events in more than one area within the same event year. Refer to the substitution rule in the policies section of this bulletin. If a team contains more than one national qualifying team member for a national event and qualifies for another national event, the second place team will advance.

22. In the event that teams or individuals advancing to National competition decline the opportunity to represent the Iowa FFA Association the Board will authorize subsequent teams or individuals (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc.) to advance to National competition. The teams or individuals that decline the opportunity to participate will not be allowed to compete in future career development events (their eligibility has expired with winning the state event). If any team accepts the opportunity to represent the Iowa FFA Association in place of the state authorized team, they will also forfeit any future opportunities to participate in this event.
23. If the due date for an entry form or application falls on a weekend or a National Holiday, it shall be postmarked no later than the next working day.

VI. Judging Results and Awards

1. All events at sub-district, district and state levels are to be judged on a group ranking basis of Gold Emblem, Silver Emblem, and Bronze Emblem. Members placing below the three rankings will be listed as participants. Only if a written rule is violated will a “participation” ranking be given. This will prevent that entry from advancing. If necessary for entry in a regional or national event, one or more of the winners will be selected.
2. First and second place shall be designated in every event at the state level.
3. In sub-district, district and state events, effort will be made to secure three (Ag Sales and Job Interview leadership events shall have four) qualified and impartial persons to serve as judges whose decisions shall be final.
4. Judges:
 - Effort will be made to make the comments of judges on strong and weak features available to all advisors for their participants, after the placings have been made.
 - Judges of all events should make every effort to supply comments on individuals and team events.
 - Judges must provide written reason for a “participation” ranking.
5. The results of all district FFA events will be released only by the State Board of Directors member for the respective district, upon completion of the events at the district level.
6. Results of sub-district, district, and state events are to be released to the press and radio services so that parents and others at home may know of the outcome of the FFA events at the earliest opportunity. Release dates should be STRICTLY observed.

7. All references to awards to be provided by the National FFA Foundation, Inc., are tentative, pending final announcement by the organization.
8. If statement of rights access and consent to use of information is needed for individual applications, including Iowa FFA Degree applications, notice will be given.
9. Should an unusual interruption occur while an event is in progress it is expected that good judgment will be exercised in maintaining fairness to all participants.
10. All written materials advancing to the state level of competition will not be displayed at the district event in order to assist the district advisors in meeting their obligations to preserve the materials for further competition. They will be displayed at the state leadership conference.