



John Deere Gator Wars

Purpose

The purpose of the John Deere Gator Wars Event is to stimulate interest, encourage proficiency development and recognize excellence of students using skills in agricultural mechanics.

State Event Superintendent

The Superintendent for this event is Ms. Ashlynn Spell, John Deere: spellashlynnnd@johndeere.com

Comments and questions may also be directed to Mrs. Shelby Robertson, State FFA Coordinator, NCSU, Campus Box 7654, Raleigh, NC 27695-7654. Phone: 919.513.0216 Fax: 919.513.3201

Eligibility and General Guidelines

This event is open to all FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing. FFA members may not participate in a Career Development Event that leads to a state level event after July 1, following their high school/early college graduation. Members winning a previous state event in this area or that have participated in a previous national event in this area are ineligible.

Teams shall consist of three or four members. No alternates are allowed in state events. Any alternate found participating in a state event will result in total team disqualification. Only one team per chapter is permitted to participate in this event.

The use or possession of cellular phones, smart watches, or any other mobile electronic communication device is prohibited during any state-level career development event. Any violation of this rule by any team member will result in total team disqualification.

FFA members participating in career development events that require the use of calculators may only use nonprogrammable/graphing calculators that do not have the ability to communicate with other calculators. Calculators will be screened prior to the start of a CDE for acceptability. Students caught using data stored on a calculator or communicating with other calculators will result in a total team disqualification for the event.

Any member found cheating in any state-level career development event will result in total team disqualification for that event.

At the North Carolina FFA State Convention, participation in more than one FFA career development event is permitted if events are not being held concurrently and no special provisions are required to facilitate participation. Members may participate in only one career development event with the exceptions of Creed Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure or Prepared Public Speaking and



Parliamentary Procedure, which are held concurrently will allow dual participation and special provisions for flighting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, North Carolina FFA will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Please direct accommodation requests through the CDE/LDE Accommodation Request [Form](#). If the accommodation can be made for all and/or doesn't provide an unfair advantage, then every effort will be made to provide the accommodation. Requests can be accommodated more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.

Middle School Participation

Middle school students and teams may participate in any Career Development Event or Leadership Development Event. The top three middle school participants will be recognized at the state FFA convention. Middle school participants should designate during registration.

Dress Code

Participants are required to follow the North Carolina FFA Career Development Event Dress Code. A ten percent reduction in the total team score will be taken if a participant violates the dress code. For this event, all participants should wear appropriate shop clothing that includes closed-toe shoes and provide their own industrial-quality eye protection.

State Career Development Event Participation

The appropriate numbers of teams based on event participation from each region along with the top three scoring individuals regardless of their team placing are eligible to compete in the state career development event. Teams and individuals advancing to state event participation must be certified by the regional FFA advisor.

Procedures for Administering the Event

1. Personal safety equipment conducive to the work to be performed is to be provided by the participant. This includes appropriate footwear, gloves, long sleeves and long pants, and eye protection such as safety glasses and/or goggles.
2. Team members must supply their own hand tools. No power or air powered tools are permitted. Hammers, chisels, large adjustable wrenches, jacks, and floor jacks are not needed. Work areas should be kept orderly and neat.
3. Teams will all start at the same time to assemble their John Deere product in addition to analyzing and fixing 1-2 faults that prevent the gator from cranking and moving.
4. Once a team flag an official to inspect their station or if a safety issue arises, a horn or whistle will blow. At the sound of the horn or the whistle, the students should step back away from their stations until directed to do so by a contest official.
5. Once the first team has been declared the winner, the teams should continue to work until the 3rd place team has been determined.



State Awards

The awards for the state event will be presented annually at the state FFA convention to include a team 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaque.