



Agricultural Issues CDE

Purpose

The purpose of the agricultural issues forum is to present a current issue to a public audience.

State Event Superintendent

The superintendent for this event is designated by the State FFA Coordinator and will be identified at the State FFA Convention.

Comments and questions may also be directed to 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 that have participated in a previous national event or previous state winning teams in this area are ineligible. This event will be held during the North Carolina State FFA Convention.

Teams may consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven individuals who are actively participating, orally, presenting, and available to answer judges' questions. All participants' scores will count toward the team total score. No alternates are allowed in state events. Any alternate found participating in a state event will result in team disqualification.

The use of cellular phones 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.

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

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.

The North Carolina FFA Association, in keeping with the FFA mission and purposes, does not permit the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapes, or Juuls at any FFA facility or at any FFA activity.



Calculators used for this event must be only basic five-function (add, subtract, multiply, divide, and square root only) calculators. Possession of scientific calculators and other programmable calculators or other non-basic calculators by any team member shall result in a team disqualification.

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.

Middle School Participation

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

Dress Code

Participants may wear a costume that supports the theme of the presentation or official dress. Official dress as described in the FFA manual is: Official dress for an FFA member includes: an official FFA jacket zipped to the top, black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons, white collared blouse or white collared shirt, official FFA tie or official FFA scarf, black dress shoes with closed heel and toe.

The North Carolina FFA Association strives to promote a positive image at all Official FFA Events. The dress code policy was established to address the issue of appropriate attire at all Official FFA Events. Members should adhere to this policy for all events. A ten percent reduction will be applied to all individual scores from a chapter if a participant from that chapter violates the dress code during that career event.

Artificial Intelligence Usage

All materials that are submitted should adhere to the [North Carolina FFA Artificial Intelligence Policy](#). Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage through the use of AI or other methods will not be tolerated. Non-compliance with this policy represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a member.

Procedures for Administering the Event

Equipment Provided: It is the responsibility of the participants to secure any electronic presentation equipment necessary for their presentation.

Each team will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level.



The issue will come from one of the following seven agricultural issue topic areas as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues instructional materials:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Environmental Issues | e. Economy and Trade Issues |
| b. Agricultural Technology Issues | f. Agricultural Policy Issues |
| c. Animal Issues | g. Food Safety Issues |
| d. Agricultural Career Issues | h. Biotechnology Issues |

The same agricultural issue presentation and portfolio will not be used in subsequent years by the same chapter/advisor. Research on the topic must be current and students must be involved in all the research of the topic and development of the portfolio.

The portfolio should include items described in A. and B. below and will be limited to 10 pages single sided or 5 pages double-sided, not including the cover page. The cover page will include the title of the issue, name, address and phone number of the chapter. A maximum of 10 points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum number of pages and/or for not including the cover page containing required information.

- A. A maximum of two pages of the portfolio will include a summary of the issue, answering the questions that are most relevant to your topic. List course(s) in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue.
- Why is the issue important now?
 - What is the nature of the issue?
 - Who is involved in the issue?
 - How can the issue be defined?
 - What is the historical background of the issue?
 - What caused the issue?
 - What are the risks?
 - What are the benefits?
 - Is there strong disagreement on how the issue should be solved?
- B. A bibliography of all resources and references cited which may include personal interviews and any other supporting material.

Time Limits

Five (5) minutes will be allowed for set-up. The presentation will be a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes in length. The presenters will receive a signal at ten (10) minutes and at fourteen (14) minutes. At fifteen (15) minutes, the timekeeper will announce that time is up, and the presentation will end. A maximum of five (5) minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of five (5) minutes. Five (5) minutes will be allowed for take-down.

The presentations will be designed to be viewed by the judges. The audience at large will not be of concern to the presenters.

The judges may ask questions of all individuals of the presenting team. Each individual is encouraged to respond to at least one question from the judges.



Scoring

Maximum Score	150
Introduction, Pro, Con, and Summary (20 points each)	80
Overall presentation (participation of each member of the team, quality and power of the presentations, creativity, stage presence)	20
Questions	25
Portfolio	25

Portfolios must be submitted to the State FFA Coordinator by June 1 prior to the State FFA Convention. Prior to the event, the portfolios will be judged and scored by qualified individuals using the portfolio scorecard. Portfolio scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after they have scored the presentation. Portfolio comment cards will be completed by portfolio judges and returned to the chapter.

Judges' ranking will be used to place teams. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant then shall be added, and the winner will be the participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placing will be determined in the same manner (low rank method of selection)

Procedure for Determining the State Event Winner When Scores are Tied

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Team low ranks will be counted and the team with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, the event superintendent will rank the team's response to questions. The team with the greatest number of low ranks from the response will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, the team's raw score will be totaled. The team with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

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 and a travel monetary award. The highest ranking middle school team will be recognized only if they are not already among the overall top three teams. If a middle school team places in the top three overall, they will not receive additional middle school-specific recognition.

National Career Development Event Participation

State winning teams advancing to the national career development event will be automatically registered for the national event. It is the responsibility of the FFA Chapter Advisor to complete all necessary national certification and waiver forms and return them to the state FFA Coordinator by the assigned due date.

State winning CDE teams that choose not to participate at the national level should contact the state office by Sept. 1 prior to national convention. Teams that fail to inform the state office prior to Sept 1. will be ineligible to participate in that same CDE for the next year (chapters may appeal to the State FFA Board of Directors). Teams that do not compete at the National Convention will be required to pay back the travel award.



References

This list of references is not intended to be all inclusive. Other sources may be utilized and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following may be helpful during event preparation:

Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Global Vision Instructional Materials, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization



SCORECARD- NC FFA Agricultural Issues Forum CDE (150 points)

June 2005

Chapter Name _____ Total Points _____

_____ 20 Introduction-
statement of the issue and
its importance

_____ 20 Pro View Point

_____ 20 Con View Point

_____ 20 Summary

_____ 20 Overall Presentation

_____ 25 Questions

_____ 25 Portfolio

_____ TOTAL

_____ 10% deduction for
State FFA Dress
Code violation

_____ TOTAL SCORE

1. Introduction, Pro, Con and Summary of Pro and Con (20 points each, 80 points total)

There will be a 5-point deduction from the scorecard of any team that draws a conclusion supporting a pro or con viewpoint during the formal presentation.

2. Overall presentation (participation of each member of the team, quality and power of the presentations, creativity, stage presence) (20 points)

3. Questions (25 points)

4. Portfolio:

10 single-sided pages maximum or 5 double-sided pages.

(Three parts, 25 points total)

- Summary of the Issue, 2 pages maximum (5 points).

- Bibliography (5 points).

- Documentation of local forums (15 points).

Please state when, (date and time) where, and to whom the local forum(s) was presented to. If you indicate that more than one forum was held on the same date, independent documentation of time of day the forum was held must be provided.

A maximum of 10 points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum number of pages and/or not including cover page containing required information.

Prior to the event the portfolios will be judged and scored by qualified individuals using the portfolio scorecard. Portfolio scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after they have scored the presentation. Portfolio comment cards will be completed by portfolio judges and presented to the teams at the awards function. Presentation judges will be furnished with copies of the team portfolio which they will use to formulate questions.

5. Judges' ranking will be used to place teams.

6. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant then shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low rank method of selection).