



Agriscience Fair Award Program

Purpose

The Agriscience Fair Award Program recognizes students studying the application of scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises.

State Event Superintendent

The superintendent for this event is Dr. Misty Lambert, Associate Professor NCSU, Department of Agriculture and Human Sciences NCSU, Campus Box 7607, Raleigh, NC 27695-7607.
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Eligibility and General Guidelines

This event is open to all FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing in grades 7-12. FFA Members may not participate in the North Carolina Agriscience Fair Award Program after July 1, following the high school/early college graduation. The event will be open only to students who are active FFA members and who are currently enrolled in agricultural education. Student(s) may only compete in one pathway or division of the North Carolina Agriscience Fair Award Program each year. Agriscience Fair Award projects should be the results of a student's own efforts during the school year prior to application submission. Students that finish in the top three in the National FFA Agriscience Fair Award Program are ineligible for further competition in that division or category. Chapters may submit only one Agriscience Fair Award Program project each year from each division within each pathway. This event will be held during the North Carolina State FFA Convention.

The use or possession 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.

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.

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.

Dress Code

Participants are required to follow the North Carolina FFA Career Development Event Dress Code. 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

The North Carolina FFA Agriscience Fair is designed to help students gain knowledge and understanding of the research process by conducting an experimental Supervised Agricultural Experience project.

A full written report and Agriscience Fair Application are submitted for review prior to the due date provided by the State FFA Coordinator. The written report and application are submitted electronically through the Agricultural Experience Tracker. All applications and project reports must be complete to be eligible for judging. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

Students researcher(s) can compete in one of the six pathways:

- Animal Systems
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Plant Systems
- Power/Structural & Technical Systems
- Social Science

Pathways are determined by which agricultural system aligns most appropriately to the research project. A full description of each pathway is provided in the National FFA Agriscience Fair Award Program Handbook.



Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to compete in Agriscience Fair in the following divisions:

- Division 1- Individuals grades 7-8
- Division 2- Team of two members grades 7-8
- Division 3- Individual member grades 9-10
- Division 4- Team of two members grades 9-10
- Division 5- Individual member grades 11-12
- Division 6- Team of two members grades 11-12

The grade is determined by the grade level of the member at the time of qualification at the state level. If a team is composed of two members in different grades, the team must compete in the division in which the oldest student qualifies.

APPLICATION & WRITTEN REPORT

An electronic copy of the application that includes the written report is completed in the Agricultural Experience Tracker. All portions of the application must be completed. Failure to turn in projects by the deadline will result in disqualification. Participants can bring a printed copy of the written report and the project logbook to the interview portion of the competition. Participants must be present for the interview.

Student researcher(s) should use the National FFA Agriscience Fair Award Program Handbook to guide the development of the written report and completing each portion of the application.

Please Note: The Skills, Competencies and Knowledge portion of the application is linked to the Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources Standards (AFNR Standards) established by the National Council for Agricultural Education. This section of the application requires applicants to show how the project aligns to the AFNR Standards.

- The Agriscience Fair Pathway and the Primary AFNR Pathway are selected on the Cover Page of the application.
- The AFNR Performance Indicators are identified in the Skill Development Form of the application. The performance indicators are controlled by the primary pathway selected on the Cover Page.
 - Students select 5 different primary pathway performance indicators that illustrate the skills, competencies, or knowledge gained through the project.
 - The contributions to success in the Skill Development Form must connect the AFNR Performance Indicators to the current research project.

DISPLAY

Each exhibit should include information relevant to the study. All projects must have the following information attached to the exhibit:

- Name of person(s) responsible for developing the project
- Chapter name, state
- Title of category entered
- Division entered (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6)



Agriscience fair participant(s)' display shows the results of the study utilizing a display board not to exceed the dimensions of:

- 36 inches high (from top of the table to the top of display)
- 48 inches (width)
- 30 inches deep (the distance from front to back)
- Preferred Display Requirements

Standard Display Requirements

The display must consist of a stable, free standing display board on the provided table top not to exceed the sizes outlined above. The student researcher(s) may also have the log book and up to five copies of the written report as part of the display. The log book and copies of the written report are optional. No additional props, handouts, or electronics are permitted. No tablets, iPads, cell phones or other electronic devices will be permitted. Internet access will not be provided. Posters can be created utilizing Microsoft PowerPoint slide format, however this is not required. Participants are responsible for providing backing for the poster if needed.

INTERVIEW

All participants are required to meet with the judges to explain their projects at the state level event. Explanation and questioning may not exceed 15 minutes. The interview is an opportunity for judges to ask questions about the project. A team project must be presented by a team of two. If only one team member is present the team cannot rank higher than 4th overall. Judges will ask questions to determine the extent of knowledge gained, understanding of the project, how it relates to the SAE, and how the project relates to other FFA activities if applicable. The following is a list of example questions that may be asked:

1. How and why was the project selected?
2. What was your goal? What did you plan to accomplish in your project?
3. Were there any surprises in your project? How did you deal with them?
4. What did you learn from the experience?
5. How much time did you devote to your project?
6. What kept you from being discouraged?
7. How did you manage time for this project in relation to your other activities?
8. What would you advise others doing a project? What is the value of completing an agriscience fair project?
9. How can your findings and conclusions be applied in the agriculture, food and natural resources industry?

State Event Scoring

<i>Maximum Score</i>	220
Application & Written Report	100
Interview	120



Procedure for Determining the State Event Winner When Scores are Tied

Ties will be broken based on score from the written report, the project with the higher score will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will compare the scores of the participants in the interview process.

State Awards

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

National qualifiers will receive a travel award for the National FFA Convention.

National FFA Career Development Event Participation

The state winner advancing to the national career development event will be automatically registered for the national event. A maximum of 10 applicants in each pathway and division will be considered national finalists and invited to compete in the National FFA Agriscience Fair interview to be held virtually each September.

State winners in all categories and divisions who choose to make changes to project components must submit the full written report and application electronically through the Agricultural Experience Tracker Following the state level event, winners will inform the State FFA Coordinator which application to submit to National FFA by **July 1**.

All national finalists are expected to participate in a scientific career exploration, networking, and immersion experience at the National FFA Convention & Expo. During this time, students will present their research and engage/network with universities and sponsors about their research. An orientation packet for national qualifiers is released to participants prior to the National FFA Convention.

National finalists that choose to not attend and compete at the national level will forfeit their travel award and must return the money to the State FFA Association.

Bibliography

Official FFA Manual

National FFA Agriscience Fair Handbook