



Dairy Handlers CDE

Purpose

The purpose of the Dairy Cattle Handlers Career Development Event is to recognize the contributions of the handlers in presenting each animal to its best advantage.

State Event Superintendent

The superintendent for this event is Mr. Andy VonCanon, Western Region Agricultural Education Coordinator, Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC 28759

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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.

Chapters are limited to one participant at the state event.

Members who are competing in the event must not have shown or handled the animals that are being used in the event at any time prior to the event. This would include preparation or fitting of the animals assigned. In addition, it is highly recommended that handlers should have prior experience in showing cattle or livestock.

If a dairy handler cannot control his/her animal, this animal may have to be displayed by an alternate holder. The original handler SHALL NOT be given a different animal to display.

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.

Middle School Participation

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

Dress Code

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.

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.

Participants are required to wear long pants, an appropriate shirt with a collar, an appropriate high school t-shirt, or an FFA t-shirt. Boots are required. **Please dress appropriately for this activity.**

Procedures for Administering the Event

1. Registration

Contestants will register with the event official and/or ringmaster upon arrival.

2. Drawing for Order

Contestants will draw for a flight number, which will determine the order in which they compete.

3. Waiting Area

A group leader will organize contestants in a designated waiting area, away from the competition ring.

4. Entering the Ring

When called, the contestant will proceed to the ring, where a ring leader will assign them an animal to handle.

5. Preparation Period

Each contestant will have a 2-5 minute period to familiarize themselves with their assigned animal.



6. Judging Process (1 judge per 10 contestants)

- Contestants will be evaluated by using the official scorecard.
- The judge(s) will approach each contestant and may ask questions about the animal, such as its breed, sex, or other identifying features.
- Judges may also ask questions to assess the contestant's knowledge and observations, such as:
 - "What do you like about your animal?"
 - "What would you improve about your animal?"
 - "If you could change one thing about your animal, what would it be?"
- Judges will observe the contestant as they walk and handle the animal, assessing their technique and overall interaction.

7. Rotation

After the evaluation, the judge will dismiss the contestant and may provide feedback on areas for improvement or highlight what they did well. The next participant will then enter the ring.

8. Final Heat Selection

Based on the scorecard, each judge will select two to three individuals to advance to the final heat.

Final Heat Guidelines

1. Showmanship Format

- The final heat will follow a traditional showmanship competition format, judged by two judges depending on the number of contestants.
- Contestants will be assigned an animal and judged on their handling skills as outlined in the scorecard.
- If available, fresh animals will be used for the final heat that have not been used in earlier rounds.

2. Ring Procedure

- Contestants will line up their animals in the ring as directed by the event judge.
- Contestants must follow all instructions provided by the event judge.

3. Animal Switching

- At the judge's discretion, contestants may be asked to switch animals during any round to evaluate adaptability and skill.

State Awards

The awards for the state event will be presented at the State FFA Convention to include a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaque. The 1st place winner will receive a monetary award. The highest-placing 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.



Bibliography

For more information see the [National FFA Career Development Events Handbook](#)

Dairy Handlers' Activity Scorecard

Name: _____ Contestant ID Number: _____ Chapter _____

OFFICIAL SCORECARD		
CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
Setting Up the Animal for Judging (30 Points)		
Hands and feet are used appropriately to set the animal	5	
Showman makes an effort to set up the animal	10	
Front feet are positioned correctly	5	
Rear legs are set correctly without extending too far forward or backwards	10	
Maintaining the Animal in its Most Advantageous Pose (20 Points)		
Head held high	5	
Tail head set appropriately	5	
Top line level	5	
Thoughtful response on animal likes and improvements	5	
Effectively Restraining the Animal While Avoiding Excitement (20 Points)		
Maintain control of the halter	5	
Does not allow Excessive or uncontrolled movement by the animal	5	
Walks the animal in the correct position to provide the optimal view	5	
Correctly transitions as the judge moves around the animal	5	
Moving the Animal as Directed by the Ringmaster (15 Points)		
Maintains eye contact with the judge	10	
Precise response to evaluator's instructions	5	
Poise and Calmness of the Handler (15 Points)		
Demonstrates sportsmanlike behavior and a pleasant disposition	10	
Maintains composure and provides clear responses when approached	5	
Sub Total	100	
Dress code deduction	-10	
Total score		

***Each participant should be ranked on a final list determined by the event judge to establish regional placings. At the official's discretion, handlers or coaches may receive their rubrics after the event.**