



CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

2024 PLANNING GUIDE

National FFA looks forward to hosting career and leadership development events (CDEs/LDEs) during the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo. Use this guide to understand updates for this year's events. All 2024 event information may be accessed through the [CDE/LDE webpage](#).

2024 CDE/LDE Details

Dates

March	Declaration/Certification Opens
Late May	Tentative schedules released.
July 1	Declaration Deadline (for state staff)
July	Finals Hall, Awards Recognition and Main Stage Recognition Schedules Released
Aug.	Event Orientation Packets Posted to FFA.org
Sept. 3	Team Certification and Uploads Due Online Drop/Add Process begins.
Mid-late Sept.	Employment Skills Virtual Components
Early Oct.	Virtual Components for Parliamentary Procedure

Subscribe to CDE/LDE Alerts

Subscribe [here](#) to receive email notifications about new materials or updates posted to the CDE/LDE webpage.

Handbook Updates

All 2024 handbook revisions will be posted by the end of March. The handbook version date is in the top right corner. Changes made in the handbooks will be noted in the 2024 CDE/LDE Handbook Update Summary, which will be posted on the CDE/LDE webpage.

Online Orientation Packets

Event orientation packets will be posted on FFA.org in early August. Orientation packets will include event schedules, locations, and preparation materials. These materials are not distributed but will be posted on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#) to provide easy access to these packets.

Certification

Certify your team by Sept. 3. Teams qualifying after Sept. 3 should certify within 10 days of the qualifying date. Students are only allowed to compete in one national CDE/LDE per year and may only compete in an event at the national level once. Reference the [How-To Certify a Team/Member](#) for assistance.

Note these upgrades for 2024: Details are available [here](#).

- All Drop/Add changes will be completed in Certification until it closes 1 hour before the event begins;
- Changes/Updates in certification will now "AutoSave"
- A second advisor contact/email may be added;
- List of students provided in notifications.

Virtual Component Platforms

Virtual components may be delivered via Google Classroom and Zoom. Submissions will be confirmed/verified before the students are excused. In-person proctors will be utilized for virtual components.

Details by Event

CDE/LDE	Component(s)	Key Details
Agricultural Communications	Writing Mechanics Exam Press conference Team Practicums	<p>No scenario or media plan upload. Following the press conference, teams will have 3 hours to collaborate on their message and plan and develop the pieces to communicate their message.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalistic writing – news story • Magazine Layout- design and place the story • Mini social media plan- 7 to 10 social media posts • Broadcast piece- a short video, radio clip, or podcast script. <p>A 5–10-minute pitch to judges about their message, plan, and completed work is the final piece.</p> <p>Note: Students can create their work in any program. The skill set used is staying the same. The focus remains on writing and practical design. Work will be turned in before the presentation for judging.</p>

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Agricultural Sales	Written exam Sales Call Customer service call Team Activity	
Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems	Written exam Skill practicums Team activity	
Agronomy	Identification—weeds, seeds, crop plants Soils Pest management—Insect identification Disease and disorders Written exam Team activity	<p>The crop regions have been reduced to 4, and the crop lists for each region have been reduced to focus on the significant crops by value and acreage with commonalities across the board.</p> <p>The general scenario will be released with the orientation packet. The team activity focuses on the four areas of agronomy: Crop, Nutrient, Pest, Soil and Water, and a recommendation/summary. Team members roleplay as agronomic advisors or experts in each area, then collaborate on a final recommendation/summary and oral presentation. The presentation is a 5–8-minute Q&A session of their recommendation. Rubrics will be adjusted to reflect this change.</p>
Conduct of Chapter Meetings	Written exam Presentations	
Creed Speaking	Presentations	
Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management	Written exam Herd record evaluation classes Oral reasons classes Team scenario	The team activity topic area for 2024 is Housing and Facilities .
Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity	Handling dairy cattle during the Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management Event	
Employment Skills	<p><i>Hosted Virtually Mid-Sept.</i> <i>Face-to-face interview</i> <i>Follow-up thank you.</i></p> <p>Face-to-face Interview Networking activity Telephone job offer</p>	<p>Upload resume, cover letter, and job description and complete online job application by Sept. 3.</p> <p>The online job application will be released on Aug. 19 and must be submitted by Sept. 3.</p> <p>Preliminary Interviews will be conducted in six rounds, with two students advancing from each round.</p> <p>These twelve students will complete the final personal interview. Then, 8 students will advance to complete the final networking and the job offer activities.</p>
Environmental & Natural Resources	Written exam Identification Four rotational practicums Team activity	Identification would include understanding the application of or responding to questions regarding the samples/specimens.
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Presentations	
Farm & Agribusiness Management	Individual exam Team activity	

CDE/LDE	Component(s)	Key Details
Floriculture	Written exam Team activity Problem-solving/decision making Plant/equipment identification Floral arrangement Growing procedures Two rotational practicums	Reminder: Updated plant list is included in 2023 and 2024 handbooks.
Food Science & Technology	Written exam Safety/sanitation team activity Problem-solving/math Customer Inquiry Sensory evaluation Product specification compliance Product development team activity	The Safety and Sanitation Report will be reconfigured to a "Food Audit Report." This removes the categories and focuses on the reporting of observations.
Forestry	Written exam Board foot volume Tree identification 2 of 4 rotational practicums Forest industry scenario team activity	
Horse Evaluation	Breed and tack identification Cull/Keep classes of 8 video runs Halter and performance evaluation classes Oral reasons Team scenario/presentation	General knowledge exam (topics will include equine industry, showmanship, breed identification, management and anatomy/ physiology). Keep/Cull classes — 2 classes of 8 video runs to be judged individually. Students will select the best 4 runs to advance/keep from the 8 video runs. Odd and even year rotations are offered in the class listing. (50 points/class). Updated the team activity to 2 practical application activities and the scenario.
Livestock Evaluation	Performance Bulls & Team Questions Keep/Cull classes Evaluation placing classes Oral reasons	
Marketing Plan	Presentations	Upload marketing plan by Sept. 3. Preliminary rounds will increase from 6 to 8. Two teams from each room will move forward. Marketing questions have been eliminated from the post-presentation Q&A.
Meats Evaluation & Technology	Written exam — lab practicum approach Retail meat cut identification Beef quality and yield grading Evaluation class questions Team activity	

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Milk Quality & Products	Written exam Problem-solving Milk flavor identification and evaluation Product identification Cheese identification California Mastitis Test (CMT) Team activity	CMT will be enhanced with a bacterial culturing component. Participants will assess images of Tri-plates acquired from the Minnesota Easy® Culture System. Assessment of the images would indicate one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contaminated 2. Gram Negative 3. No Growth 4. Staphylococcus species 5. Staphylococcus aureus 6. Streptococcus species, or 7. Streptococcus agalactiae <p>Each of the 5 CMT milk samples will have an accompanying image, and practice images will also be available.</p>
Nursery/Landscape	Identification Landscape estimating Nursery propagation/potting Team skills challenge including a team preparation score Verbal customer assistance Written exam	Reminder: Updated plant list is included in 2023 and 2024 handbooks.
Parliamentary Procedure	<i>Hosted Virtually in Early Oct.</i> <i>Written Exam</i> <i>Minutes</i> <i>Preliminary team problem-solving</i> Presentations Semi-final team problem-solving	Certification will include a “designated alternate” who will also participate in the virtual exam and minutes. This will allow an accurate accounting of average scores in the presentations. The virtual components allow for seeding the teams and “the assessment of the realistic minutes and problem-solving components. Both exercises are hand-scored. An alternate date will be offered for the virtual components.
Poultry Evaluation	Written exam, placing classes Carcass parts identification Oral reasons — 2 classes Egg grading Written factors class Further processed evaluation Team activity	
Prepared Public Speaking	Presentations	Upload the manuscript by Sept. 3.
Veterinary Science	General Knowledge Math applications Identification Practicums - Clinical procedures & Handling/restraint Team activity	Two case-based scenarios that blend general knowledge, identification, clinical and handling/restraint practicums, and team activity. The two scenarios will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vesicular lesion investigations in swine, bovine, and equine • Small animal wellness visit <p>The Veterinary Science handbook will provide the appropriate guidance to prepare your teams for the 2024 event. Note: We will release updated and 2024-specific rubrics, updated identification lists and other resources with the handbook updates in March 2024.</p>