



PA FFA [Ag Issues] Career Development Event



Chairperson Information

CDE Chairperson	Dianna K. Jarema and Krista Pontius -updated 7/1/2025
Email	djarema@cvschools.org , KPontius@greenwoodsd.org
Best Contact Number	717-752-6260 (Dianna); texting available
Contest Date/Times	Monday, January 12, 2026 - 9 AM to 12:30 PM (Team presentation times scheduled in advanced)
Contest Location	PA Farm Show Building, Room TBA (near the Allegheny Room)
CDE Review Time	Time provided with the judges after announcing the winners within 20 minutes after the last presenting team - a text will be sent to all advisors
CDE Review Location	Location room of CDE/LDE at the Farm Show Complex

Basic CDE Guidelines

Event Type: Individual/Team	# of Team Members:
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Individual Materials List</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a - this is a TEAM event 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Group Materials List</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any materials needed to present should be provided by the team. (The Farm Show also provides 6' tables and chairs.) Portfolio Scorecard: ten single-sided pages or five double-sided pages maximum; does not include title page (Three parts, 25 points total) *see NFFA Handbook, p5 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of the issue, two pages maximum (15 points). Bibliography (10 points) Documentation of local forums (15 points at state event). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All forums, require independent verification of when, where and to whom forums were presented, and independent verification of presentation times if more than one forum is held on the same day Maximum of ten points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum number of pages and/or for not including the cover

	page containing the required information.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Attire</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentations may include official FFA dress, costumes, props, skits and other creative paraphernalia. Costumes, props, skits and other paraphernalia must be professional in nature and used to showcase respect of all cultures. The event committee reserves the right to remove any team whose presentation, props, skits or other actions are disrespectful of others or shows lack of good judgement.(NFFA, 2022) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CDE At-A-Glance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The agricultural issue could come from one of the following eight agricultural issue topic areas as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials (http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~peters/HTML/issue-analysis/teaching-materials.html): ● 1. Environmental Issues ● 2. Agricultural Technology Issues ● 3. Animal Issues ● 4. Agricultural Career Issues ● 5. Economy and Trade Issues ● 6. Agricultural Policy Issues ● 7. Food Safety Issues ● 8. Biotechnology Issues ● ● Team Presentation (125 points total) ● 1. Introduction, Pro, Con and Summary of Pro and Con- (80 points total) ● 2. Effectiveness of Presentation (20 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a. participation of each team member. ○ b. creative in how main points are made. (It makes no difference, for the “creativity” score, if the team is in costume or official FFA dress.) ○ c. quality and power of the presentations. ○ d. speaks at the right pace to be clear. ○ e. pronunciation of words is clear and intent apparent. ○ f. no distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. ○ g. gestures are purposeful and effective. ○ h. well poised with good stage presence.

- 3. Questions (25 points) - Appropriate response and knowledge of the issue will be evaluated from team members' responses.
- 4. There will be a five point deduction from the scorecard for any team that draws a conclusion supporting a pro or con viewpoint during the formal presentation. During the question period, students may draw a conclusion supporting a pro or con viewpoint if asked to do so by a judge.

Pre-State CDE Expectations

- Portfolio should include pictures of presentations and letters of support for at least 1 presented forum.
- The winning Chapter will need to provide an updated pdf of the Portfolio including all National FFA requirements for this CDE to the Chairperson (Dianna) and cc the person in charge of National FFA CDE registration (Mr. Brammer) *by the first day of each PSU FFA State Days in June.*
 - * ***The winning team advisor should be in contact with the Tabulations committee at PSU in June, as well as the FFA Executive Secretary so as not to miss any National FFA Registration deadlines.***

OTHER CDE INFORMATION

- A pdf copy of the Portfolio is due to the Chairperson by December 15th. Email to: djarema@cvschools.org OR snail mail – Dianna Jarema, Eagle View MS, 6746 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
It must include, as a separate sheet, the names of all participants in this CDE.

**Winners will NOT be announced at Mid-Winter Convention, but will be included in the Tuesday Newsletter from the Center for Professional Development and the Team will be recognized at PSU in June.*

****National FFA requires a minimum of five (5) forums before the state qualifying date (June 9, 2026).*

First place Team: Plaque and wins a trip to the National FFA Convention

Second place Team: Plaque (and if they hold it, a trip to the Big E in Mass.) - check with Mr. Brammer in June of the winning year

CDE Changes from Previous Years?

- Updated scorecard to more completely reflect Nationals ***(as posted prior - new for Jan 2024 and beyond)***

- At least one forum must be completed and included in the portfolios beginning January 2024. National FFA requires a minimum of five (5) forums before the state qualifying date (June 9, 2026). ***(as posted prior - new for Jan 2024 and beyond)***

CDE Rules

CDE Component	Points	Component Description
Portfolio	25	Submitted as both a pdf and a commentable document to Dianna by Dec 15th. Download scoresheet.
Presentation	125	3-7 member team present the topic using a 15-minute timeframe. Both sides of the topic, pro and con, should be presented and members answer judges' questions afterward. Download scoresheet.
Equipment	-	Equipment must be provided by the presenting group. No computers, extension cords, projectors or technology of any kind will be provided. The room consists of chairs, tables and when possible, a podium.
<p>Causes for Disqualification: using the same issue topic from previous years; team members returning to compete for another year after already winning a trip; incorrect number of participants; non-members participating in LDE.</p>		
<p>Tie-breaker: Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. If a tie still exists, then the event Chairperson will rank the team's response to questions. The team with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner.</p>		

Resources

<p> Examples of National Winning Portfolios Ag Issues Forum National FFA Ag Issues Forum Best Practices (NFFA) Ag Issues Forum Handbook, updated for 2026 (NFFA) </p> <p> Agricultural Issues Forum - 90th National FFA Convention & Expo, 2017 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5QyBX05hZo&t=1132s </p>
