



# PA FFA Floriculture Career Development Event



## Chairperson Information

<b>CDE Chairperson</b>	Delores (Lori) Bruce		
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:dbruce@monroecti.org">dbruce@monroecti.org</a>		
<b>Best Contact Number</b>	570-801-0110 or 570-629-2001 ext.2534		
<b>Contest Date/Times</b>	Tuesday 1:30PM – 3 PM	Wednesday 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM	2026
<b>Contest Location</b>	Holding Barn		
<b>CDE Review Time</b>			
<b>CDE Review Location</b>			

## Basic CDE Guidelines

<b>Event Type:</b> Individual/Team	<b># of Team Members:</b>
<p><u>Individual Materials List</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean clipboard, free of notes</li> <li>• Two sharpened No. 2 pencils</li> <li>• Prepared résumé</li> <li>• Floral cutters/clippers</li> <li>• Ribbon shears</li> <li>• Wire cutters</li> <li>• Floral knife</li> <li>• Calculator- Should be battery operated, non-programmable and non-scientific (basic five function only). No other calculators are allowed to be used during the event.</li> <li>• Participants may also bring an apron, and/or a tool belt and towels.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Group Materials List</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean clipboard, free of notes</li> <li>• Two sharpened No. 2 pencils</li> <li>• Prepared résumé</li> <li>• Floral cutters/clippers</li> <li>• Ribbon shears</li> <li>• Wire cutters</li> <li>• Floral knife</li> <li>• Calculator- Should be battery operated, non-programmable and non-scientific (basic five function only). No other calculators are allowed to be used during the event.</li> <li>• Participants may also bring an apron, and/or a tool belt and towels.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Attire</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday – Official Dress (points will be deducted for failure to meet this state standard.)</li> <li>• Wednesday – Chapter or team shirts or school appropriate clothing. <b>NO sandals, NO open toed or open heeled shoes.</b></li> </ul>	<p><u>CDE At-A-Glance (List of major components)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEAM ACTIVITY (800 POINTS)</li> <li>• IDENTIFICATION OF PLANT MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, and DISORDERS (200 POINTS)</li> <li>• GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND PROBLEM-SOLVING/EXAMINATION (175 POINTS)</li> <li>• ANNUAL PRACTICUMS (100 POINTS EACH)</li> <li>• ROTATIONAL PRACTICUMS (75 POINTS EACH)</li> </ul>

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Pre-State CDE Expectations

- Please refer to the National CDE Floriculture Manual for event details and CDE Scorecards, references and resources.

This CDE is a two-day event

The winning four member-team will advance to the National Event in October. The second-place team will represent Pennsylvania at the Eastern States Exposition in September. All four team member scores will be included in the team score. Individuals and teams of less than four members will be eligible for individual awards.

CDE Changes from Previous Years?

- Please see the National FFA changes, any questions please email me.

Event Rules

Each team will be comprised of four members.

- All four scores will be used to determine total team score.
- Under no circumstances will any participant be allowed to touch or handle plant material during the event except when instructed by the event staff.
- Any communication between participants during the event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team and/or individual from the event. The exception to this is the team activity.
- Any participant caught cheating during the event will be expelled from the event.
- All participants are expected to be prompt at their stations throughout the event. No provision will be made for tardiness, which will in most cases cause the late participant to lose event points.
- The event chairperson will assign the participants to group leaders who will escort them to various event staging sites. Participants must know their participant number and stay in their assigned group at all times or until told to change leaders by the event chairperson.
- Any assistance given to a participant from any source during the event, other than a floriculture official, will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team from the event.
- All participants will be given an identification number by which they will be designated throughout the event.
- Various computer applications may be utilized throughout the floriculture event.
- Any participant in possession of an electronic and/or communication device in the event area is subject to disqualification.

## **CDE Rules**

<b>CDE Component</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Component Description</b>
TEAM ACTIVITY	800	<p>Each team will perform an assignment routinely performed in some phase of the floriculture industry that requires teamwork. These tasks will be described in situational terms for presentation to each team. Forty-five minutes will be allowed for completing the activity. If a presentation to the judges is required, the presentation portion of the event will take place after the 45-minute time period has ended. Presentation times may vary depending on the assigned task but will be at most 10 minutes. An additional time will be allowed after judging is complete for team clean up. All materials, except floral tools needed to complete the assignment, will be provided. The event assistant in charge will announce the type of activity and information about the specific tasks at the beginning of the practicum.</p> <p>The type of assignments that may be used in this phase of the event include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and pack floral products for an event, shipping and/or updating inventory.</li> <li>• Create a floral product display.</li> <li>• Create a greenhouse production and task schedule to meet the needs of a customer.</li> <li>• Prepare and display plant material found in a garden center.</li> </ul> <p>A judge will record the scoring criteria for the team preparation and presentation on the Team Activity Rubric.</p>
IDENTIFICATION OF PLANT MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, AND DISORDERS	200	<p>Forty specimens from the <a href="#">floriculture plant, equipment and disorder</a> identification lists will be displayed for participants to identify by technical/scientific and common names. A number will designate each specimen. Five points will be awarded for each specimen that is correctly identified. Each participant will be allowed 25 minutes to</p>

		complete this event phase.
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATION AND PROBLEM SOLVING	175	Participants will answer 30 multiple-choice general knowledge questions and will solve five problems related to the various aspects of the floriculture industry identified in the event objectives, including flowers and material from the wholesaler and how they are handled, stored, and used in the flower shop; knowledge of floral design (arrangement) and marketing of floral products from the floral shop as well as participants' knowledge and understanding of basic biological and scientific principles of producing and marketing flowers, plants and foliage. Each problem will describe the situation or create the problem and list four possible solutions to the problem. The participant must decide on the best possible solution to the problem. All materials and information necessary to solve the problem will be available to the participants as they solve the problem. Each participant will be allowed 50 minutes to complete the 35-question exam. Each answer has a value of five points.
ANNUAL PRACTICUMS	300	<p>Each participant will complete three annual practicums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floral arrangement</li> <li>• Growing procedures</li> <li>• Retail Pricing</li> </ul> <p><b><u>FLORAL ARRANGEMENT (100 POINTS)</u></b>  Make a floral arrangement in compliance with the scenario provided. Participants will be allowed 20 minutes to complete their arrangement using the materials provided. At the beginning of the practicum, the event assistant will provide participants with the flowers and foliage they will use in their arrangements. Scoring criteria are presented on the <a href="#">Floral Arrangement Practicum scorecard</a>, which a judge will record.</p> <p><b>Explanation of Floral Arrangement Terms</b></p>

**Design:** Category interpretation: design follows the objective/scenario given  
**Balance:** Physical and visual  
**Creativity:** Artistic inventiveness  
**Depth:** Placement of materials at different levels throughout the arrangement  
**Focal Emphasis:** Design has one area of design that attracts the eye to it  
**Line:** Movement  
**Mechanics:** Professional techniques and application  
**Scale:** Proportion  
**Unity:** Cohesiveness of design  
**Color:** harmonious use of color

**GROWING PROCEDURES (100 POINTS)**

One of the three activities listed below will be demonstrated annually. Ten minutes will be allowed for this section, including questions from the judges. Seven (7) minutes will be allowed to complete the assigned task, one minute for judges' questions, and two minutes for judges' scoring.

**Potting of Young Plants (Plugs or Liners)**

Participants will be asked to plant young plants in the pots provided. Each participant will be given a group of young plants from which to select their transplants, an appropriate pot or pots, a potting medium, an ID stake, and a marking pencil. Scoring criteria are presented on the [Potting of Young Plants Practicum Rubric](#), which a judge will record. A plant will be placed before each participant. The participant will be given instructions as to what they are to do to the plant by the event assistant in charge of the practicum. Participants will be judged on the procedures they follow in pinching the plant.

• Scoring criteria are presented on the pinching plant scorecard which will be recorded by a judge.

**Asexual Propagation of Plants**

Each participant will be provided with the parent plant materials and all other materials needed to propagate plants asexually. Participants will take cuttings from the plant provided them using the available materials and place them in the

		<p>correct media, best for rooting. Participants should sanitize all equipment and use it appropriately in a safe manner. Scoring criteria are presented on the <a href="#">Asexual Plant Propagation Rubric</a>, which a judge will record.</p> <p><b>Pinching Plants</b> A plant will be placed before each participant. Participants will be judged on the procedures they follow in pinching the plant in compliance with the scenario provided. Scoring criteria are presented on the <a href="#">Pinching Plants Rubric</a>, which a judge will record.</p> <p><b>DETERMINING RETAIL PRICING (100 POINTS)</b> Participants will determine the retail cost of a finished floral arrangement, foliage plant basket, mixed planter, or dish garden. Participants will be provided with the wholesale cost of each item used in the design. They will need to determine the price per stem or item as well as the markup. Retail markup is determined at 3 times the wholesale cost for fresh products and 2 times the wholesale cost for hard goods. Participants will also be asked to figure labor at 20%, tax at 7% as well as delivery (if used in the scenario). Participants will have 20 mins to complete this practicum. Questions will be asked in a multiple-choice format. The practicum will be comprised of 10 questions, each of which is worth 10 points.</p>
<p>ROTATIONAL PRACTICUMS</p>	<p>150</p>	<p>In addition to the three annual practicums, two practicums will be selected from the list below</p> <p><b><u>SELLING PRACTICUM (75 POINTS) (ONE WILL BE CHOSEN)</u></b></p> <p><b>Selling One-on-One</b> Each participant will assume the role of a salesperson in a floriculture business (grower, florist shop, garden center, etc.) A customer (judge) with a specific need will approach the participant. The participant will help the customer meet their needs by using sales skills. All supplies, information and the business setting in which the participant works will be</p>

provided. Ten minutes will be allowed for this practicum. Of the ten minutes, participants will be allowed three minutes to review the given scenario, five minutes for dialogue with the customer and completion of the sales form. Judges will be allowed two minutes to score the participant. Scoring criteria are presented on the selling [One-on-One Practicum Rubric](#), which a judge will record.

### **Media Selling**

Each participant will be asked to create or evaluate advertising from the following media sources:

- Newspaper/catalog ad
- Radio script
- Newsletter
- Brochure/flyer
- Email
- Social media
- Video
- Web homepage

All information and materials needed to develop the advertisement will be provided. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed for this practicum, depending on the task assigned. Scoring criteria are presented on the [Media Selling Practicum Rubric](#), which a judge will record.

### **MAKE A MIXED PLANTER COMBINATION (75 POINTS)**

Each participant will make a mixed combination planter. All plant materials, growing media and containers will be provided. Twenty (20) minutes will be allowed for each participant to make their mixed combination planter. At the beginning of the practicum, the participant will be provided with plants and other materials to be used in their mixed combination planter. The selection of materials should be combined to create a floral display according to acceptable retail practices, using appropriate elements and principles of design within the floral industry. Scoring criteria are presented on the [Making a Mixed Combination Planter Rubric](#), which a

judge will record.

**MAKE AND PACKAGE A CORSAGE (75 POINTS)**

Each participant will make and package a body flower piece. These pieces could include any of the following: corsages, boutonnieres, floral jewelry, crowns, arm, wrist, or ankle pieces, and hair accessories. The type of design and information about the piece will be provided to the participants through a given scenario at the beginning of the practicum by the event assistant in charge. All plant and non-plant materials needed to construct and package the piece will be provided. The selection of materials should be combined to create a floral display according to acceptable retail purposes, using appropriate elements and principles of design. Each participant will be allowed 20 minutes to complete the construction of the piece. Scoring criteria are presented on the [Create and Packaging a Body Flower Piece Rubric](#), which a judge will record.

**GREENHOUSE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (75 POINTS)**

Each participant will be asked to troubleshoot a maintenance or management issue that a grower might encounter in a greenhouse. Participants will be asked to either physically demonstrate a task or talk through the situation with a judge. Examples of items the students might encounter can include but are not limited to:

- Mixing a fertilizer solution and/or using a fertilizer injector
- Program a greenhouse irrigation timer
- Repair a greenhouse water line
- Mix and/or apply a pesticide
- Program a greenhouse thermostat system

Each participant will be allowed 20 minutes to complete the assigned task. Scoring criteria are presented on the [Greenhouse Maintenance and](#)

		Management Practices Rubric which a judge will record.
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**Causes for Disqualification:**

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- All four scores will be used to determine total team score.
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- Any communication between participants during the event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team and/or individual from the event. The exception to this is the team activity.
- Any participant caught cheating during the event will be expelled from the event.
- All participants are expected to be prompt at their stations throughout the event. No provision will be made for tardiness, which will in most cases cause the late participant to lose event points.
- The event chairperson will assign the participants to group leaders who will escort them to various event staging sites. Participants must know their participant number and stay in their assigned group at all times or until told to change leaders by the event chairperson.
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- All participants will be given an identification number by which they will be designated throughout the event.
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**National/Regional FFA Career Development Event (CDE) Eligibility (March '15)**

1. Any school that wins a state level Career Development Event (CDE) will represent Pennsylvania in their respective National FFA CDE, if the CDE exists, providing they meet the following criteria:
    - a. No more than one-half of the state winning team has been substituted for any reason. In the event that the CDE team consists of three members, then only one substitution is allowed.
    - b. No substitute on the winning team has ever previously competed in the same CDE at the National Convention.
  2. Any school that places second in a state level CDE will represent Pennsylvania at the Big E, if the CDE exists, providing they meet the following criteria:
    - a. No more than one-half of the state winning team has been substituted for any reason. In the event that the CDE team consists of three members, then only one substitution is allowed.
    - b. No substitute on the second-place team has ever previously competed in the same CDE at the Big E.
- Pennsylvania FFA Policy Manual
3. No substitutions shall be allowed in CDEs with individual contestants. First place will 2 represent Pennsylvania at the National FFA CDE and second place will represent Pennsylvania 3 at the Big E, if such CDEs exist.
  4. If a team or individual is no longer eligible to complete in a CDE at the National Convention or Big E, the opportunity passes down the list of winning teams/individuals until the next highest eligible team/individual can be found to replace them.
  5. Once a student competes at the National FFA Convention, places first in an individual state CDE, and/or is the member of a first-place team in a team state CDE, they have exhausted their eligibility and are no longer eligible to complete in that respective CDE at the State Level.

**Tie – Breaker:**

- INDIVIDUAL** If ties occur the following events will be used in order to determine award recipients:
1. Written Exam

2. Plant Material, Equipment, and Disorder Identification
3. Floral Arrangement Practicum
4. Growing Procedures

**TEAM** If ties occur the following events will be used in order to determine award recipients:

1. Team Activity
2. Written Exam
3. Plant and Equipment Identification

### **Resources**

<https://ffa.app.box.com/v/Library/file/1488381810995>

<https://www.ffa.org/home>

<http://www.paffa.org/>