



**NEW JERSEY**  
**FFA ASSOCIATION**

*In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education*

New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
Office of Agricultural Education  
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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL NEW JERSEY FFA SPRING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

December 16, 2016

To: New Jersey FFA Chapter Advisors/Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Educators

From: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Specialist

CC: Nancy J. Trivette, State FFA Advisor

Re: Spring Career Development Events  
Thursday, April 27, 2017 – 9:30 am – 1:30 pm  
Cook & Douglass Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903

#### **WHAT DO SPRING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS INVOLVE?**

Floriculture, Nursery/Landscape, Environmental and Natural Resource Management, Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems, Veterinary Science, and Agricultural Sales Events will be conducted using the rules, judging forms and references available in the New Jersey FFA Career Development Events Handbooks 2017-2021 modified from the National FFA Handbooks. Handbooks can be found on the State Activity Guide and all 12.000 documents. Students should be prepared in all event sections.

#### **WHO CAN ATTEND?**

Students and teachers from all schools with Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources programs are encouraged to attend and participate in the educational activities provided. FFA activities are integral to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instruction.

Since teachers will be assigned to assist at various Career Development Events, they will work together to supervise students throughout the day. All students attending **must** participate in the Career Development Events provided. Provisions for observation will not be made.

#### **WHO CAN COMPETE?**

1. Contestants must be currently enrolled in an approved agricultural education course and appear on the chapter's roster.
2. Students who have been members of a first place official team in a state event and have participated at the highest level for that event may not participate again in that particular event.
3. All Career Development Events require a four member team. The score of all four team members constitute the official team score.

## HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

Participant lists and payment for all chapters participating in Spring Career Developments is requested by **Wednesday, March 15. Please sign-up using [www.judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com).**

### Steps to using the [judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com) registration.

1. Log in to [www.JudgingCard.com](http://www.JudgingCard.com) (If you have an AET account, login using that information. If you don't have an AET account, use your chapter number for both the username and password (i.e. NJ0000). Both are case sensitive!)
2. Click on the left most icon at the bottom of the screen for "Registration and Information."
3. Use the month list at the top of the calendar to browse to the month of the contest you need to register for (April).
4. Click on the event link "New Jersey Spring CDEs" on the calendar (April 27)...this will pull up the event's registration page.
5. Click the link to "Online Registration" at the top of the page.
6. Click on the link to "Registration" next to each event you need to register for (i.e. Floriculture, ENR, etc.).
7. Change the "Number of Contestants" to what you would like, specify an advisor, and then specify contestant names.
8. Click the "Submit Entry" button.
9. Repeat steps 6, 7, and 8 for each event for which you need to register.
10. Review all of the entries back on the event's main page.

A minimum of five teams is necessary to run any state Career Development Event.

Registration fees are used to pay Career Development Event expenses and to provide awards to FFA members. Please make checks payable to: Treasurer, State of New Jersey with "FFA Spring CDE" in the memo line and send to the Office of Agricultural Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330. **Registrations received after March 15<sup>th</sup> are subject to a \$10 late fee per event.** Registration will not be accepted any later than one week prior to the event. Please be prepared to pay prior to or at the registration desk at the Round House. Chapters who affiliate with the "Blue Supplemental Package" will have state CDE fees waived.

*(Remember, your payment is non-refundable since your registration is what we use to pay for event expenses. NOTE: The only exception, according to New Jersey's FFA Conference Refund Policy, is a doctor's note or proof of death in the immediate family along with a cover letter explaining the circumstance. This must be sent to the state executive board within one month of the event.)*

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## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost is \$36.00 per team, or \$9.00 per person (maximum 4-team members), unless the chapter is Blue Affiliated (then registration is waived); registration fee is assessed per contest for each chapter participating. Please pay this fee at the time of pre-registration. Make checks payable to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey. In the memo area of the check, please identify "FFA Spring CDE". **CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## WHERE DO I PARK ON EVENT DAY?

Observe Rutgers parking regulations. Parking along side of the road near the barns or Round House constitutes a traffic hazard. Please do not park at the Round House. Additional parking details will be provided closer to the event date.

### **WHEN AND WHERE DO I CHECK-IN ON APRIL 27?**

Events will **START PROMPTLY at 10:00 am as SCHEDULED.** One teacher from each chapter will pay assessment fees and confirm teams at the Round House **before 9:30 am.** Your teams must be verified at the sign-in desk in order to qualify for competition. Please plan to arrive on campus in a timely manner. Arriving at 10:00 or later does not provide your students with a fair opportunity and may result in them missing a component of their event.

### **WHERE DO TEAMS NEED TO BE BY 10:00 AM?**

Official teams will be at the event locations at the starting time. CDE Coordinators have the right to disqualify teams that arrive late and might not be able to allow teams to make up missed components of the event. A timely start helps make an efficient finish. Please respect other participants by having your students to the event prior to the start time. **All contestants' registrations must be confirmed by advisors on the day of the event.**

1. Floriculture Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.  
Cook Student Center (MPR - AB&C) – 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
2. Agricultural Sales Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Cook Student Center (202 ABC, George Cook Room, Merle Adams Room) – 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
3. Nursery/ Landscape Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center – 20 Indyk-Engel Way, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
4. Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center – 20 Indyk-Engel Way, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
5. Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Horticulture Farm 1 - Log Cabin and Pavilion, 140 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
6. Veterinary Science Career Development Event – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Douglass Student Center (Douglass Lounge & Meeting Rooms A, B, D, & E) – 100 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

### **HOW ARE EVENTS SCORED?**

1. FFA members on the current chapter roster make up the team score. If a contestant is found not to be a member, then his/her score will be dropped from the team score, thus causing contest teams to be re-ranked for recognition.
2. The chapter with the highest team score in each event will have the opportunity to represent the New Jersey FFA Association at the National FFA Career Development Event in Indianapolis, IN in October 2017 (if they achieve 60% team mastery or above) and the Eastern States Regional FFA Career Development Events in Springfield, Massachusetts in September 2017 (if event is available). Team members must be accompanied to these events by advisor(s).

### WHEN WILL WE KNOW RESULTS?

Official results will be available to all chapters/schools via email, the state Agricultural Education website and at [www.judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com). **DO NOT CALL THE STATE OFFICE FOR RESULTS.** Results become **OFFICIAL** when an email is sent from the Office of Agricultural Education announcing the results.

### WHAT STUDENT RECOGNITION IS THERE?

Only dues-paid members and chartered chapters may compete for awards and for further competition. Non-members and non-chartered chapters may participate; however, they are not eligible for trips, trophies, certificates, or banners. Registration fees may be higher for non-members to cover costs.

1. A banner or plaque will be awarded to the first place team in each state level event at the annual State Convention.
2. Medals will be awarded to the first, second and third place individuals overall in each event and certificates will be awarded to the top five (5) students who excel in practical parts of the events.
3. A Career Development Event Sweepstakes Award will be presented to the New Jersey team that places the highest in National Competition. This includes all National FFA Events and Land Judging/Homesite.

### WHAT ARE THE RULES?

1. No individuals from the same school/chapter may talk, confer, or otherwise communicate. Penalty will be loss of score for that section of the event or disqualification from the event. Event coordinator has the authority to make disqualifications.
2. Participants are NOT allowed to use (or have visible) electronic devices during the event, unless for medical reasons or a portion of the event requires usage. This includes cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, etc. Participants will be allowed to use calculators, if specified for that event; however, cell phone calculators are not permitted! **Failure to adhere to these rules can result in disqualification.**
3. All individuals participating will judge in a cooperative manner following the rules set forth by the event coordinator.
4. No school/chapter will use Rutgers Cook Campus or Delaware Valley University for the training of teams. **Penalty will be disqualification.**
5. All of the events require four members to compete and team scores will be based on all four members. See National Career Development website for clarification, [https://www.ffa.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/cde\\_2017\\_2021\\_intro\\_section\\_of\\_handbook.pdf](https://www.ffa.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/cde_2017_2021_intro_section_of_handbook.pdf). (Must be signed in to access information.)
6. All events will be scored using "Scan-tron" sheets. It is important for students to listen to directions and to fill out the sheets correctly in order to receive credit. Sample scan-tron sheets are available for practice on the State Activity Guide. All events will use the Multipurpose sheet.

7. There will be no separate alternate teams.
8. A student may not compete in more than one event during FFA Career Development Events. A student cannot compete in more than one event at the National Competition each year. This includes public speaking, parliamentary procedure and all non-leadership team events.
9. The \$35 National level competition fee and \$10 Eastern States competition fee will be paid by the competing school regardless of program affiliation status. These fees must be paid directly to New Jersey FFA (payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey).

#### **WHAT SHOULD MY STUDENTS WEAR AND HOW SHOULD THEY ACT?**

1. All Contestants will abide by the FFA Code of Ethics. This includes:
  - a. FFA jacket or a nametag with name, school and chapter worn in all FFA events.
  - b. Neat and safe clothing is required to promote a positive image for the FFA. Complete and proper official dress should be worn for Agricultural Sales and Floriculture. Travel official dress (ex. pants for ladies and black work boots) is appropriate for Nursery Landscape and Environmental/Natural Resources. Appropriate shop attire should be worn for the Ag Technology & Mechanical Systems event. Participants in the Veterinary Science CDE must wear either scrubs (top and bottom, solid color) or polo with slacks.
  - c. Outdoor events (e.g. Nursery/Landscape) will be held rain or shine. Please be prepared (with plastic coverings for San-tron sheets) and dress accordingly for such weather conditions.
2. Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be disqualified and asked to leave the event area.
3. Contestants should also be familiar with the proper use of the FFA jacket (i.e. members never smoke while wearing the FFA jacket). Advisors should review the Official Manual and/or Student Handbook with students regarding Code of Ethics, Official Dress, and proper use of the FFA jacket. Consult the Official Manual for descriptions of official dress.
4. The use of ANY tobacco product is not permitted at any FFA event including career development events.

#### **WHEN AND WHERE DO WE EAT?**

The event schedule is continuous from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. You may bring lunch or plan to purchase lunch at the Douglas Campus Student Center, Cook Campus Student Center or at the Food Science Cafeteria.

#### **HOW DO I GET SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MY STUDENTS?**

**If a student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP) indicates a need for assistance during a career development event, the school is responsible for providing the reader or scribe. Please identify the name of the student, their need, and the name of the assistant in an e-mail.**

The following types of assistance will be allowed, if indicated in an IEP:

- Reader - The reader will assist a student by reading out loud to them any written instructions for the CDE, exam questions, etc. without providing any interpretation of the questions/information or helping that student come to a conclusion.
- Scribe - The scribe will provide assistance to a student by writing down information such as the answer to a question. The scribe will not provide a student with direction or additional information that would help that student solve a problem or come to a conclusion.

*In order to conduct a state level career development event efficiently, **no additional time will be provided** to a student to complete portions of that career development event.*

### **AS A TEACHER AND FFA ADVISOR, WHAT IS MY ROLE?**

The support and assistance of teachers and FFA advisors is vital for the success of career development events. This assistance includes, serving as proctors or timekeepers for components of the event, assisting students with the new Scan-tron scoring system, scoring of some rounds, and helping as needed. You will also serve as an adult chaperone for the students in your event, as their advisor may be assisting at a different event location.

**Tentative event assignments are provided below. In the event that you are unable to assist where indicated, please notify Erin Noble at [Erin.Noble@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:Erin.Noble@ag.state.nj.us) immediately. Prior to the event, confirmation emails will be sent to you reminding you of where your assistance is requested.**

After you have dropped your students at their event locations, please report immediately to your assigned event location and sign in with the career development event coordinator or official. They will let you know where your help is most crucial for the event.

## **Career Development Event**

### *60% Mastery Policy*

Effective October 2013

- Teams must achieve at least 60% of the total available points in order to advance to national level competition.
- Achievement will be determined by taking the total team points earned and divide it by the total number of team points available.
- Regardless of whether the team achieves the 60% standard, it will still be recognized (including plaques/medals/etc.) as the first place team at the State FFA Convention.
- Regardless of whether the team achieves the 60% standard, it is welcome to compete at the Big E. Scores at the Big E will not be considered for the sixty-percent mastery policy.
- If the team does not reach the 60% standard, team members are able to compete in that career development again the following year.
- If a team achieves the 60% standard, at least half the team must be original team members when certifying a team for national level career development events.
- If a team achieves the 60% standard but is unable to attend the national event, the second place team will be offered the chance to compete (as long as it has achieved the 60% standard).

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT ASSIGNMENTS (*Tentative*)**

**AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS**

10 AM at Turf Farm – 20 Indyk-Engel Way

Mr. Worth Christian  
Mr. Dale Cruzan  
Mr. Bryan Leh  
Mr. Erik Fargo  
Ms. Jennifeur Wilson  
Mr. Tim Hagar  
Ms. Tiffany Morey  
Mr. Brian Hayes  
Mr. John VandeZilver

**AG SALES**

10 AM at Cook Student Center in 202ABC, George  
Cook Room, Merle Adams Room – 59 Biel Road

Mrs. Keely DiTizio  
Mrs. Nan Hamilton  
Mrs. Amanda Hayes

**ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCE**

10 AM at Hort Farm 1 (Log Cabin & Pavilion)

Ms. Hanna Toft  
Mr. Greg Babbitt  
Mrs. Patty Thorne  
Ms. Laura Pinhas  
Mrs. Kim Szulecki  
Ms. Robin McLean  
Mr. Dave Pede  
Ms. Marlene Brubaker  
Ms. Nicole Smith

**FLORICULTURE**

10 AM at Cook Student Center (MPR - AB&C) – 59  
Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Ms. Bonnie Baldasare  
Mr. Gary Nelson  
Mrs. Laurie Neyhart  
Mrs. Lisa Ann Moschera Chernigovets  
Mr. Brian Burns  
Ms. Jessica Heritage  
Ms. Jenny Allen  
Ms. Brittany Lawyer  
Ms. Peggy Grady  
Mrs. Cheryl Alfonse  
Ms. Clare Kennedy  
Ms. Dawn Viveiros

**NURSERY/LANDSCAPE**

10 AM at Turf Farm – 20 Indyk-Engel Way

Mr. John Neyhart  
Mr. Brian Martin  
Mr. Daniel Delcher  
Mr. Brian Ducey  
Mrs. Cindy VonThun  
Mr. Joel Rudderow  
Mr. Joshua Andrewson  
Mrs. Patricia Thorne  
Mr. Ed Birdsall

**VETERINARY SCIENCE**

10 AM at Douglass Student Center (Douglass  
Lounge & Meeting Rooms A, B, D, & E) – 100  
George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Ms. Ellen Inman  
Ms. Deanna Miller  
Mrs. Denise Emmons  
Mrs. Amy Kline  
Mr. Thomas Evancho  
Mr. Keith Dannucci  
Ms. Taryn Romanczak