



Agricultural Education Career Development Event

Purpose:

To encourage FFA members to explore agricultural education as a potential career field and to provide members with an introduction to the basic skills necessary for facilitating learning experiences.

Objectives:

1. Explore the agricultural education profession.
2. Develop and apply instructional planning strategies.
3. Practice facilitating engaging learning experiences.

Event Format:

- Part 1: Develop and submit a lesson plan for a 50-minute class period.
- Part 2: Teach a 12-15 minute portion of the lesson of their choice to a panel of judges (aka “students”).
- Part 3: Respond to questions related to the lesson content and/or presentation.

Rules and Regulations:

1. All Career Development Event (CDE) general rules apply except as indicated in the specific rules of this event.
2. This event is a team event, with teams consisting of two (2) FFA members. Participants must be 9-12 grade.
3. Each year, a new content area will be chosen from a rotating list (see below). Judges shall disqualify a contestant if he or she teaches a topic outside of the content area selected for that particular year. The topic designated for the year will be published on the Minnesota FFA Website.
 - a. Animal Systems - 2025-2026
 - b. Power, Structural, and Technical Systems 2026-2027
 - c. Natural Resource Systems - 2027-2028
 - d. Education, Communication, and Leadership 2028-2029
 - e. Plant Systems 2029-2030
 - f. Food Products and Processing Systems 2030-2031
 - g. Environmental Sustainability Systems 2031-2032
4. All contestants must develop a lesson plan including the following components:
 - a. Interest approach / anticipatory set (*an introduction to learning*)
 - b. AFNR standard within the specified pathway (from the [National AFNR standards](#))
 - c. No more than two learning objectives
 - d. Content (*presentation, demonstration, distribution of materials, etc.*)
 - e. Teaching strategies, Steps of the lesson, checking for understanding (questions used to provoke thought immediately after the objective is taught)
 - f. Closure (*recap of lesson*)
 - g. Assessment / evaluation
 - h. References / resources
5. Any lesson planning template may be used, however all required components must be included. A template is provided for reference.
6. The 12-15 minute teaching presentation should model ideal teaching behaviors (*clarity, variability, enthusiasm, task oriented/business-like behavior, opportunity to learn*) and should display the following:
 - a. Interest approach - i.e., link, motivation, and overview of the lesson

b. Segment of content related to the lesson objective(s)

7. Participants are encouraged to use any combination of teaching strategies that promote learning, such as *(but not limited to)* discussion, demonstration, guided practice, and/or group work.
8. A list of information sources (i.e., textbooks, websites, magazines) **MUST** be included as part of the contestant's lesson plan.
9. Contestants must bring their instructional tools and materials (i.e., handouts, posters, flipchart, visual aids, etc.). Only a laptop, a digital projector, and a demonstration table will be provided in the presentation room. The Internet is not guaranteed to be available.
10. Members are required to wear official dress at all levels of competition.
11. Time Limit: Each lesson shall be a minimum of twelve (12) minutes in length and a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes. Contestants will be allowed an additional three (3) minutes to be asked questions by judges relating to his or her lesson. Contestants are to be penalized one (1) point per second on each judge's score sheet for being under twelve (12) minutes or over fifteen (15) minutes, not including time for judges' questions.
12. One timekeeper shall be designated who will record each contestant's time, noting any time penalties (i.e., under twelve (12) minutes or over fifteen (15) minutes).

Scoring:

1. A total of 200 gross points will be multiplied by 5, resulting in a total possible of 1,000 points.
 2. The time deduction will be subtracted from the total gross points score of 1,000.
 3. The contestant's Net Score will be the Total Gross Points minus Time Deductions.
- Four competent and impartial persons will be selected to play the role of participating students for the duration of all contestants' teaching performances.
 - Three competent and impartial persons with agriculture teaching backgrounds will be selected to judge the LDE.
 - FFA members will submit their lesson plans in pdf format by the due date on the Ag Education CDE page at mnffa.org. The judges will read and grade the lesson plans on content and procedures, recording their judgments on the provided score sheet.
 - Each judge shall formulate and ask questions after the contestant's teaching performance.

