



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education  
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*In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education*

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **NEW JERSEY FFA WINTER CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

Date: December 8, 2023

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

From: Jenny J. Allen, State FFA Specialist

CC: Erin Noble, State FFA Advisor

Re: Winter Career Development Events – **NEW DATE AND LOCATION IN 2024!!**  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 9:30 am – 1:30 pm  
Harrah’s Resort – 777 Harrah’s Blvd, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

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

Farm & Agribusiness Management and Meat Evaluation & Technology will be conducted at the New Jersey State Agriculture Convention using rules, judging forms and references available in the respective event handbook posted on the State Activity Guide

([http://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag\\_ed/ffa/activity/index.html](http://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html)). Students should be prepared in the event sections outlined in the event summary section of this document.

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

Students and teachers from all schools with Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are encouraged to attend and participate in the educational activities provided. FFA activities are integral to Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources instruction. Teachers will be assigned to assist at various Career Development Events, and 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 food, agriculture and natural resources 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 constitutes the official team score.

#### **HOW DO I SIGN-UP?**

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

### Steps to using the [judgingcard.com](http://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 (February).
4. Click on the event link "New Jersey Winter CDEs" on the calendar (February 7) ...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., Farm & Agribusiness, 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 Winter CDE" in the memo line and send to the Office of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330. Registrations received after January 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. 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.)*

### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?**

The cost is \$44.00 per team, or \$11.00 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 Winter CDE". **CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### **WHERE DO I PARK ON EVENT DAY?**

Parking details will be provided closer to the event date.

### **WHEN AND WHERE DO I CHECK-IN ON FEBRUARY 7?**

Events will START PROMPTLY at 10:00 am as SCHEDULED. One teacher from each chapter will pay assessment fees and confirm teams at the Registration Desk before 9:30 am. Registration will take place on the second floor of the conference center in the pre-function area outside Avalon 8 & 9. Your teams must be verified at the sign-in desk in order to qualify for competition. Please plan to arrive on 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. 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.

### **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 2024 and the Eastern States Regional FFA Career Development Events in Springfield, Massachusetts in September 2024 (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 Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources 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, except during the team activity. 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 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://ffa.app.box.com/s/vpx52yly9mpiai35srdzl7oq68kldnbt>
6. All events will be scored using scantron sheets, unless otherwise noted. It is important for students to listen to directions and to fill out the sheets correctly to receive credit. Sample scantron sheets are available for practice on the State Activity Guide.
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. Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.
  - b. Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
  - c. Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
    - i. FFA jacket or a nametag with name, school and chapter worn in all FFA events.
    - ii. Neat and safe clothing is required to promote a positive image for the FFA. Complete and proper official dress should be worn. Additional instructions may be provided for the Meat Evaluation & Technology event.
  - d. Respect the rights of others and their property.
  - e. Be courteous, honest and fair with others.
  - f. Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful and positive manner.
  - g. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
  - h. Make myself aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.
  - i. Conduct and value a supervised agricultural experience program.
  - j. Strive to establish and enhance my skills through agricultural education in order to enter a successful career.
  - k. Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization.
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 Harrah's Resort.

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

The New Jersey FFA Association is committed to providing equal access to our events and activities for all people. Please utilize the Request for Reasonable Accommodations to get special assistance for your student(s). Use this form to request a reasonable accommodation or assistance at least 3 weeks before any state-level events: <https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/accommodations-request>. A new form will need to be submitted for each event for which a reasonable accommodation is being requested. This information will be kept confidential and will be used only to process the request. Our staff will review the request upon receipt and contact the requestor with additional information. The association cannot guarantee accommodations or assistance if a form is received less than 3 weeks before an event. Accommodations being requested that require the assistance of another person (nurse, interpreter, scribe, reader, etc.) is the responsibility of the school/requestor. It is also the school/requestor's responsibility to provide any approved equipment to aide in the accommodation process, if applicable. 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 Scantron 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. Prior to the event, assignments will be announced. After you register for the events, 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.

## **WHAT CAN WE EXPECT AT THE EVENTS?**

### *What is the Farm & Agribusiness Management Career Development Event?*

The New Jersey FFA Farm & Agribusiness Management Career Development Event provides competition that fosters information assimilation, critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for successful business management. The skills learned in this event can be used to successfully manage a farm, agribusiness, pursue agricultural business careers and can be applied to personal financial management. The New Jersey FFA Farm & Agribusiness Management Career Development Event enhances and encourages opportunities for all participants to receive instruction that develops business management and entrepreneurial skills.

The Farm Business Management Career Development Event will have two components.

- **Team Activity** – 60 minutes – Teams will work together to analyze financials and respond to a scenario
- **Written Exam** – 90 minutes – Individuals will analyze financials, complete calculations and respond to related questions (multiple choice, short answer and fill-in-the-blank)

### *What is the Meat Evaluation & Technology Career Development Event?*

The New Jersey FFA Meat Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event is designed to help students develop skills for careers in the meat animal industry. The Meat Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event provides competition that fosters broader analytical skills, critical thinking strategies and a knowledge of meat and meat animal products involved in the industry of meat and animals. During the event, members evaluate meat carcasses and identify various meat cuts. The Farm Business Management Career Development Event will have two components.

- **Written Exam** – 30 minutes – Individuals will answer 50 multiple choice questions relating to meat storage and handling, cookery, nutrition, food safety (HACCP principles, bio-security and personal safety), processed meats, legislation and history, purchasing meat, and animal care and handling.
- **Retail Cuts Identification** – 30 minutes – Individuals will identify 30 retail meat cuts found on the Meats Identification Card (species, primal cut, cookery, retail name).
- **Evaluation Classes** – 30 minutes – Individuals will evaluate up to four evaluation classes of placing, keep/cull and/or value-based pricing (carcasses, wholesale/sub-primal cuts, retail cuts, and/or processed meats).
- **Team Activity** – 30 minutes – Teams will work together to complete to problems from the following list: solve a meat formulation; identify major muscle groups and/or major bones; solve a meats problem scenario; appraise a class or retail cuts; complete a beef value-based pricing scenario; complete a food safety activity.

*“The New Jersey FFA Association is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the state FFA constitution, bylaws or policies.”*