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New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education
200 Riverview Plaza, 3rd Floor | P.O. Box 330 | Trenton, NJ 08625 | 877-AgEdFFA | jerseyageducation.nj.gov

In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education

ANNOUNCEMENT

99TH ANNUAL NEW JERSEY FFA FALL CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

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

From: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Advisor

Re: Fall Career Development Events
Thursday, November 16, 2023 – 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Cook & Douglass Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

Date: September 1, 2023

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 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 compete again in that particular event.
3. Land Judging, Turf Management and Fruits & Vegetables Career Development Events can have 3-4 members. The top three scores on a team constitutes the official team score. The Milk Quality & Products and Forestry 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 Fall Career Developments is requested by **Saturday, October 15th**. – **Please sign-up using www.JudgingCard.com.**
Steps to using the judgingcard.com

1. Log in to www.JudgingCard.com (If you have an AET account, login using that information. If you don't have an AET account, please
2. Click on the leftmost 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 (November).
4. Click on the event link "New Jersey Fall CDEs" on the calendar (November 16)...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 they need to register for (i.e. Land Judging, MQ&P, etc.).
7. Change the "Number of Contestants" to what they 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 their entries back on the event's main page.

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

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

A \$44.00 per team, or \$11.00 per person (maximum 4-team members), skill assessment fee is invoiced per event for each chapter participating. Fees associated with Career Development Events go towards career development assessments – expenses to conduct the assessments. No food, travel or lodging is covered through these fees. Please make checks payable to: Treasurer, State of New Jersey with "FFA Fall 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. **Participant Lists received after October 15th are subject to a \$10 late fee per event.** Participant Lists will not be accepted any later than one week prior to the event. Please be prepared to pay prior to or at the check-in desk at the Round House. ***Chapters who affiliate with the "Blue Supplemental Package" will receive a discount on Career Development Assessments.***

(Remember, your payment is non-refundable since your participant lists are what we use to pay for assessment 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.)

WHAT DO FALL CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS INVOLVE?

Land Judging Career Development Event

Several classes of soil will be judged based on soil profile characteristics, management, practices, and land use capability. Team members should have a pencil and pocketknife. There will be up to four sites. A copy of the scorecard and guidelines can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html. (Document 7.005). Additional Land Judging information can be found at “Oklahoma Land Judging” (www.landjudging.com).

Fruits and Vegetables Career Development Event

The event includes: (1) identification of variety; (2) judging of five classes of apples and/or vegetables for uniformity, variety, color, freedom from blemish, trueness to variety, etc.; and (3) multiple choice exam. A copy of the scorecard, lists, and guidelines can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html (Document 7.002).

Turf Management Career Development Event

This event has (4) four phases: Phase I - General Knowledge Exam; Phase II - Identification of Turf Species, Pests and Disorders; Phase III - Equipment Preparation, Maintenance, Problem Solving and Safety; Phase IV - Customer Relations and Problem Solving. A copy of the event rules, procedures, scorecards, identification list, and summary can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html. (Document 7.001).

Milk Quality and Products Career Development Event

This event will be conducted according to national rules and regulations. Students should be prepared in all event sections, with the exception of the team activity. A copy of the event rules, procedures, scorecards, and lists can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html Document 12.001).

Forestry Career Development Event

This event will be conducted according to national rules and regulations. Students should be prepared in all event sections, with the exception of the team activity. A copy of the event rules, procedures, scorecards and lists can be found in the state activity guides on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html Document 12.013).

WHERE DO I PARK ON EVENT DAY?

Please observe Rutgers parking regulations. New Jersey FFA is not responsible for parking tickets or other violations received while on campus. Parking along side of the road near the barns or Round House constitutes a traffic hazard. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK AT THE ROUND HOUSE!**

WHEN AND WHERE DO I CHECK-IN ON NOVEMBER 16?

Events will **START PROMPTLY at 10:00 am as SCHEDULED**. One teacher from each chapter will pay the invoice and confirm teams at the Round House on College Farm Road **before 9:30 am**. Your teams must be verified at the main check-in site 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 9:45 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 you might not be able 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. Students who leave before the conclusion of the event will forfeit their score for any components of the event they missed. **All contestants' names must be confirmed on the day of the event.**

1. Land Judging Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Directions from the Round House will be given
2. Milk Quality and Products Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Douglas Campus Center, Douglass Lounge and Meeting Rooms A, B, D & E, 100 George Street
3. Turf Management Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center, 20 Indyk-Engel Way (off Ryders Lane)
4. Fruits and Vegetables Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Douglas Student Center, Trays Hall, 100 George Street
5. Forestry Career Development Event – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Rutgers Gardens Log Cabin/Pavilion, 130 Log Cabin Road

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 the Milk Quality and Products and Forestry Career Development 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. Team members must be accompanied to these events by advisor(s). **ALL four individual scores make up the team score.**

3. The top five teams in the Land Judging Career Development Event are eligible to compete at the National Land Judging Career Development Event in Oklahoma in April/May 2023.

WHAT STUDENT RECOGNITION IS THERE?

Only students who appear on the chapter's membership roster 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. Career Development Assessment 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 H.O. Sampson certificates will be awarded to the top five (5) students who excel in practical parts of the events.
3. A Career/Leadership Development Event Sweepstakes Award will be presented to the New Jersey team that places the highest in National Competition. This includes all National FFA CDE/LDE Events and Land Judging. An Individual Sweepstakes Award will be presented to an individual that places highest in National Competition. This includes all National FFA CDE/LDE Events and Land Judging.

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

1. No individuals from the same school/chapter may talk, confer or judge together. Penalty will be loss of score for that section of the event or disqualification for 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, tablets, 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 will 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 University or Delaware Valley University for the training of teams. **Penalty will be disqualification.**
5. Four members may participate in each event; the score of the three highest constitutes the official team. The fourth member automatically becomes the team alternate. EXCEPT in Milk Quality and Products and Forestry where all four scores make up the team score.

Most National Career Development Events now require four members to compete and event scores will be based on all four members.

6. All events will be scored using Scantron sheets. It is important for students to listen to directions and fill out the sheets correctly in order 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 National level competition fee of \$40 and Eastern States level competition fee of \$10 will be paid by the competing school regardless of affiliation status. These fees must be paid directly to New Jersey FFA (payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey).

WHEN WILL WE KNOW RESULTS?

Unofficial results are available at www.judgingcard.com a few hours following the event. Official results will be available to all chapters/schools via email, the state Agricultural Education website and at www.judgingcard.com the day following the events. **DO NOT CALL THE STATE OFFICE FOR RESULTS.** Teachers are strongly encouraged to share concerns with unofficial results before 10 am on the day following the events. Results become **OFFICIAL** when an email is sent from the Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education announcing the results.

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 official dress should be worn for Fruit and Vegetable Identification, Milk Quality and Products, Forestry and Turf Management. Consult the Official Manual for descriptions of official dress.
 - c. Outdoor events (e.g. Land Judging, Turf Management, Forestry) will be held rain or shine. Please be prepared (with plastic coverings for scan-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.

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 Cook Campus Student Center or the Douglas Campus Student Center.

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 your registration 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 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 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.

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.nj.gov immediately. Prior to the event, confirmation emails will be sent to you reminding you of where your assistance is requested.

After you have dropped-off 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.

Turf Management Career Development Event

Scholarship Policy

Effective November 2008

The Turf Management Career Development Event provides the opportunity for the students to receive college scholarships to attend the Turfgrass Science Program at Rutgers. Currently the scholarships are available to individuals who place 1st-3rd in the event, regardless of how the team places.

In an effort to encourage the study of Turfgrass Science in college, an exception will be made for an individual on a 1st place team who didn't rank 1st-3rd individually. The new policy will allow an individual from a 1st place Turf Management team to compete in the event again, but only as an individual. This participation will not affect the team rank. The student must be dues paid members from a chapter in good standing and will be eligible for individual medals and certificates. The student is limited to one attempt to compete as an individual for the scholarship.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT ASSIGNMENTS (Tentative)

MILK QUALITY & PRODUCTS

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Douglass Student Center, Meeting Rooms A, B, D, E & Douglass Lounge
100 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Mr. Dan Wunderlich- CDE Coordinator

Special Event Assistants

Ms. Rachel Arena
Ms. Amy Balliet
Mr. Dan Delcher
Mrs. Denise Emmons
Ms. Ellen Inman
Ms. Karissa Kester
Dr. Robin McLean
Ms. Deanna Miller
Ms. Taryn Romanczak
Ms. Adrianna Ruggieri
Mrs. Patricia Thorne
Mrs. Taylor Waldron

TURF MANAGEMENT

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Turf Farm, 20 Indyk-Engel Way (off Ryders Lane)
Mr. Joe Clark- CDE Coordinator

Special Event Assistants

Mr. Mike Adams
Mr. Ed Birdsall
Ms. Carly Chaapel
Ms. Keely DiTizio
Mr. Andee Dixon
Ms. Nan Hamilton
Mr. Brian Martin
Mrs. Patty Smith
Ms. Dawn Viveiros
Ms. Katie Wickel

FORESTRY

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Rutgers Gardens Log Cabin/Pavilion, 130 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick
Mrs. Lori Jenssen – CDE Coordinator

Special Event Assistants

Mrs. Annaliese Castellini
Mr. Dale Cruzan
Mr. Owen Donnelly
Mr. Brian Ducey
Ms. Giselle Gomes

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Douglas Student Center, Traves Hall
100 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Mr. Dennis McNamara- CDE Coordinator

Special Event Assistants

Mr. Patrick Dougherty
Mrs. Peggy Grady
Mrs. Kristina Guttadora
Mrs. Jessica Heritage
Ms. Catherine Markowitz
Dr. Tiffany Morey
Ms. Kylie Naylor
Ms. Amarilys Olivo
Ms. Nicole Smith
Ms. Kaitlyn Tallamy
Ms. Rachel Van Gorden
Ms. Jill Wetzel

LAND JUDGING

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Directions provided at Round House, College Farm Road
Mr. Fred Schoenagel- CDE Coordinator

Special Event Assistants

Ms. Kimberly Bartholomew
Mr. Sam Casqueira
Mr. Matthew DiTizio
Mr. Matt Duckworth
Mr. Erik Fargo
Mr. Brian Hayes
Mrs. Joanna Knoblauch
Mr. Justin Naylor
Ms. Carmela Schlitzer

Special Event Assistants

Mr. Andrew Morris
Ms. Laura Pinhas
Mr. Joel Rudderow
Ms. Renee Stillwell
Ms. Hanna Toft

“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.”