

Virginia FFA Guide



Virginia FFA does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation.

The Virginia 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.

ENVIROTHON

Philosophy for Virginia FFA Career Development Events

Students are important customers of agricultural education and the FFA who recognize quality and value in products and activities. When provided an opportunity to fashion their educational experiences, they generally make wise decisions based on needs, perceptions, image and the opinions of others influence students. They value change based on their perceived personal needs as well as the needs of others. They sometimes value change for the sake of variety. Adults are concerned about the experiences of students and want to help organize experiences that will meet the future needs of students while accomplishing the purposes of agricultural education and the FFA organization. The Virginia FFA Association should assume the leadership role in developing and continuously improving relevant FFA career development events and awards. Although the Virginia FFA Association should be aware of the needs of local chapters and should react to those needs, it should help initiate opportunities that reflect relevant and emerging technology.

Virginia FFA career development events and awards should be developed with significant input from FFA members, teachers, partners, respective industry sponsors, and others involved in agricultural education. Virginia career development events and awards should reflect instruction that currently takes place in the entire agricultural education program, including classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, individualized instruction, and/or supervised agricultural experience. However, it is appropriate for the state organization to develop career development events and awards that stimulate instruction in emerging areas that reflect both current and future community, national, and global work force needs. The authority for insuring the relevance of an FFA activity is ultimately vested in the Virginia FFA Advisory Council.

The state association should promote individual, chapter, and team career development events and awards. Chapter and team career development events and awards should be based on cooperation and teamwork while recognizing the value of competition and individual achievement. The role of career development events and awards is to motivate students and encourage leadership, personal growth, citizenship, and career development.

Students should be recognized for achievement in career development events and awards. Quality standards should be used as a basis for achievement. The state association should ensure that the recognition is appropriate and meaningful. Recognition for achievement should be reflective of the total effort required by the chapter/team/individual and should take place at all levels of participation.

The Virginia FFA Association shall encourage accessibility and provide opportunities for achievement and recognition for students with diverse backgrounds. High expectations should be consistently communicated to those who are involved in career development events and awards.

GENERAL RULES and OFFICIAL POLICIES

Violations of any of the following rules may be grounds for the event superintendent to disqualify the participants.

State FFA Staff and CDE Superintendents will use the published rules and procedures to organize and implement the State FFA Career Development Events. Event activities may not be conducted due to lack of necessary materials, expertise or extreme impact to event budgets.

TEAM ACTIVITIES

The primary goal of team career development events and awards is to develop individual responsibilities, foster teamwork, and promote communications while recognizing the value of ethical competition and the value of individual achievement. A team career development event/award requires two or more members from one chapter working cooperatively. Team career development events and awards are intended to be an outgrowth of instruction.

Team career development events and awards should:

- include problem solving and critical thinking.
- promote an appreciation for diversity by reducing barriers to participation.
- promote new directions and focus on future needs of members and society.
- include cooperative activities.
- encourage broad participation among members and recognize excellence within levels of experience.
- recognize individual and team achievement, develop general leadership, and recognize levels of ability.
- provide local recognition for superior performance at the state and national level.

ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

- 1) Each participant must be a current bona fide dues paying FFA member in good standing with the local chapter, state FFA association, and the National FFA Organization at the time of the career development event (or by May 1 for the Virginia FFA, whichever date comes first.) In the event a participant's name is not on the chapter's official roster for the years in which the dues were payable to the National FFA Organization, a past due membership processing fee of \$35, in addition to the dues must be paid.
- 2) The participant, in a State Senior Career Development Event, must be:
 - a. A high school FFA member, (a graduating senior is considered eligible to compete in state career development events the convention directly after graduation.)
(High school refers to grades 9-12.)
 - b. A middle school team consisting of all 8th grade FFA members.
 - c. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career. For this purpose a student needs to be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the year they qualified for the event. If the student was previously enrolled in an agriculture class and was an FFA member, they may compete in a contest if they have scheduling issues (ex. Advanced Placement classes) that do not allow them be enrolled in an agriculture class but they must still have an SAE.
- 3) The participant in a State Junior Career Development Event must be:
 - a. at the time of the state competition has qualified as either a 7th, 8th or 9th grade member.
 - b. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career. For this purpose a student needs to be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the year they qualified for the event.
- 4) The participant in a State Middle School Career Development Event must be:
 - a. At the time of the state competition has qualified as either a 6th, 7th or 8th grade member.
 - b. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career. For this purpose a student needs to be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the year they qualified for the event.

- 5) To compete in the creed speaking event, the member has qualified as either a 7th, 8th or 9th grader by state convention.
- 6) CDE participants who start an event and do not complete the event without notifying event officials at the time of departure will be disqualified. This can affect the overall team rank and position. In some events this will also disqualify the entire team
- 7) The state supervisor/executive secretary of agricultural education must certify that participants are eligible. If an ineligible student is entered in any career development event, the entire team of which that student is a member may be declared ineligible.
- 8) The first contest that a school wins in the current year will be the contest that the individuals on that team will represent Virginia at the National FFA Convention. To explain, if an FFA chapter puts more than one current winner of an FFA contest on an additional team, then the second place team will be declared the State Winner and will compete at the National FFA Convention. If one person is a duplicate and the National rules allow for a three-person team, then the first place team will represent Virginia. If a student that wins a contest is declared ineligible, or cannot attend the Convention, then the other members of the team will be allowed to compete for individual awards only. (A medical waiver may be granted if a member of a winning team is unable to attend due to a medical condition.)
- 9) Individuals who have been state winners or have represented the state in any official national FFA career development event are not eligible to enter the same FFA event again. However, FFA junior division state winners are eligible for state senior division. Individuals on a state winning team cannot compete in that division again.
- 10) A chapter may enter any number of career development events; however, a chapter may have no more than one team in each division in each event.

CHECK-IN

Participants will check-in at the state FFA convention as indicated in the annual State Guidelines. Dates, hours and place of check-in will be sent annually to the agricultural education teacher. All participants will be given an identification number by which they will be designated throughout the event.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

- 1) **Emergency Conditions:** Under emergency conditions, a state team participating in a Virginia FFA Career Development Event may be made up of less than the required members. Fewer than the required number could compete if an emergency condition such as illness, death in the family or an act of God would occur. Those individuals competing would still be eligible to qualify for individual awards.
- 2) Event committees will strive to divide teams into groups so that no two participants from a team will be in the same group. In any case, no two members will be placed side-by-side.
- 3) **Disqualification:**
 - a. Any communication, verbal or non-verbal between participants during a career development event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team member involved from the career development event. The only exception to this would be communication between team members during the team activity portion of a given career development event.
 - b. Teams arriving after the career development event has begun may be disqualified or penalized. No member substitutions may be made after the career development event begins.
 - c. Any assistance given to a team member from any source other than the career development event officials or assistants will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team from the career development event.
 - d. Event superintendents may stop any participant if they deem their manner to be hazardous either to themselves or others. Such stoppage shall deem the individuals disqualified for that section of the career development event.
 - e. CDE participants who start an event and do not complete the event without notifying event officials at the time of departure will be disqualified. This can affect the overall team rank and position. In some events this will also disqualify the entire team.
 - f. Participants will not be allowed to utilize personal electronic communication devices, other than those approved by the event officials, during the entire course of the event. Participants who access personal electronic communication devices without prior approval of the event officials will be disqualified.

- 4) Advisors
 - a. Advisors are not allowed to be in contact with their students at any point or time during the competition.
 - b. Advisors may only be allowed at the contest site if they are assigned to supervise a group or part of the contest
- 5) Participants are expected to observe the National FFA Code of Ethics and the Proper Use of the FFA Jacket during the career development events. (Please see the latest edition of the Official FFA Manual.)
- 6) Official FFA dress is highly recommended for all participants where appropriate and is required for the awards presentation and recognition.
- 7) Participants or advisors will not be allowed in the career development event area as designated in the specific career development event rules. Infractions of this statement may result in team disqualification.
- 8) Accessibility for all students—all special needs requests should be submitted two weeks prior to the event for scheduling of assistance during event.
- 9) Results of all Virginia State FFA Career Development Events will be announced during sessions at State Convention.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

The ranking of teams and individuals in each of the career development events will be on the basis of three logical groups within the total range of scores. Awards will be distributed to the winning teams and individuals at award programs following the completion of the career development events.

VIRGINIA FFA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Purpose: To advise the State Staff on issues impacting both FFA Career Development Events and Awards to ensure:

- 1) All activities are consistent with industry needs.
- 2) All activities are available to all members.
- 3) All activities are conducted openly, fairly and in a quality manner.
- 4) Cooperation among various activities occurs, to the degree possible, to promote the interconnectedness of agriculture (i.e. forestry and agricultural mechanics or farm business management and dairy or livestock) and agricultural education (classroom, SAE, FFA).
- 5) New and innovative activities are being put forward for consideration.
- 6) As many students as possible have the opportunity to participate.
- 7) A constant process of local advisor in-service on proper use of these activities as tools for learning is being championed.
- 8) All activities are operated consistently with Advisory Council policy.
- 9) Activities are conducted within available budgets approved by the FFA Advisory Council and, if appropriate, Virginia FFA Foundation Board.

The Virginia FFA Advisory Council is a committee made up of sixteen members from all across the Commonwealth that meet bi-yearly. Along with sending their advice on important issues to the National FFA Board of Directors, the Council also discusses the past year's events, how to advance their association in the future, and address the suggestions and concerns brought up by agricultural teachers and other leaders of agriculture.

Membership of the Advisory Council

- 1) Ten members of the Virginia FFA Advisory Council are selected by the areas.
- 2) One member, who is agricultural education middle school advisor.
- 3) One member, who is a representative from Virginia Tech.
- 4) One member, who is a representative of Virginia State.
- 5) One member, who is the State FFA Advisor.

- 6) One member, who is a representative of FFA members, selected when elected State FFA President.
- 7) One member, who is the State FFA Specialist (State FFA Executive Secretary.)

Term

Members serve a three-year term except for the one FFA member representative who will serve a one-year term.

Chair

The chair of the advisory committee on awards and career development events will be elected each year.

Meeting Schedule

- 1) Annual fall meeting to report on the completion of activities at convention and provide input into the winter meeting agenda.
- 2) The annual spring meeting will allow for most of the committee's work to be conducted as a whole group and in sub-groups focused on specific issues or specific types of activities (e.g. team career development events, individual awards, chapter awards).

Local advisors should submit concerns suggestions to the state FFA Specialist/chair of the advisory board and their area representative at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Rules Committee on State Career Development Events

The advisory committee will meet only when needed and will make all final decisions on interpretation of the rules and regulations of the State FFA Career Development Events or awards programs.

Official judges' decisions are final. The announced results are the official results and awards may be duplicated as a result of the appeal.

Conflict of Interest

If there is a violation of a student whose advisor is a member of the advisory board, the advisor may not vote on the violation. A teacher from that area maybe used to fill in for the advisor whose student has possible committed the violation.

Official Dress Recommendations, Number of Participants, and Number of Scores from Team Total

Event	Official Dress Appropriate	Number of Participants	Number of Scores Allowed (per team) for Team Total
Agricultural Communications	Yes	5	5
Agricultural Issues Forum	Yes	3-7	Team Score Event
Agricultural Mechanics Sr.	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Agricultural Mechanics Jr.	FFA Shirt	3	3
Agricultural Sales	Yes	4	4
Crops Judging	*Yes/FFA Shirt	4	3
Computer Applications	Yes	1	1
Creed Speaking	Yes	1	Individual Event
Dairy Cattle Evaluation	*Yes	4	Top 3 Scores
Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity	White/Jacket	1	Individual Event
Dairy Foods	Yes	4	Top 3 Scores
Envirothon	*Yes/FFA Shirt	4	4
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Yes	1	Individual Event
Farm Business Management	Yes	4	Top 3 Scores
Floriculture	*Yes/FFA Shirt	4	4
Food Science and Technology	Yes	4	4
Forestry Field Day	FFA Shirt	7	7
Forestry Senior	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Forestry Junior	FFA Shirt	4	3
Horse Evaluation	*Yes	4	Top 3 Scores
Horse Hippology	Yes	4	Top 3 Scores
Horticulture Demonstration	FFA Shirt	1/2	1/2
Job Interview	Yes	1	Individual Event
Jr. Dairyman's	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Jr. Forester's	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Jr. Stockman's	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Livestock Evaluation	*Yes	4	Top 3 Scores
Marketing Plan	Yes	3	Team Score Event
Meats Evaluation & Technology	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Middle School Agriscience Technology	FFA Shirt	4	3
Middle School FFA Quiz Bowl	Yes	4	4
Middle School Food & Fiber	FFA Shirt	4	3
Middle School Plant Science	FFA Shirt	4	3
Middle School Small Animal Care	FFA Shirt	4	3
Nursery/Landscape	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Parliamentary Procedure Senior	Yes	6	Team Score Event
Parliamentary Procedure Junior	Yes	6	Team Score Event
Poultry Evaluation	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Prepared Public Speaking Senior	Yes	1	Individual Event
Prepared Public Speaking Junior	Yes	1	1
Small Engines	FFA Shirt	1	1
Soils Judging	FFA Shirt	4	Top 3 Scores
Tractor Operator's	FFA Shirt	1	1
Tractor Troubleshooting	FFA Shirt	2	2

Please remember that all participants are required to wear complete official dress, as outlined in the National FFA Official Manual, to all award functions.

***Official Dress is required for the reasons part of this CDE**

-An FFA Shirt is any shirt purchased from the National, State or Local FFA or any plain shirt that has an FFA emblem or FFA sticker on it.

ENVIROTHON

I. EVENT RULES

1. **Team Make-up-** Team size shall be five members. For the National FFA CDE, only four members will be allowed to compete.
2. The contest will be conducted and run by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (VASWCD).
3. At the time of participation, a member must be a high school FFA member (a graduating senior is considered eligible to compete in the national career development event up to and including his/her first national convention following graduation). High school refers to 9 - 12 grades.
4. All general rules will apply to this event.
5. These rules only apply to the State FFA Contest and not the State Envirothon Contest.
6. Under no circumstance will any participant be allowed to handle any of the items in the identification portion of the practicums. Any infraction of this rule will be sufficient to eliminate a team from the event.
7. No team, team member or team coach shall visit the event facilities to observe material and facilities before the start of the event. Any team, team member or coach reported and proven to do so will cause the elimination of that team from competing in the State FFA Envirothon Career Development Event.
8. Teams will be assigned to a group leader who will escort them to various event-staging sites. Each participant is to stay with his or her assigned group leader throughout the event or until told to change leaders by the event superintendent.
9. Participants must come to the event prepared to work in adverse weather conditions. The event will be conducted regardless of the weather. Participants should have rainwear, warm clothes and appropriate footwear.
10. Written Material: All written material will be furnished for the event. No written materials such as tests, problems and worksheets shall be removed from the site.
11. Each VASWCD Area may send the top scoring FFA to the state contest for a total of no more than 6 FFA teams at the state contest. An area may limit participation to 1 team per district at the Area Competition. The Envirothon Program has served as the State Competition for FFA Natural Resources Section for years. In an attempt to increase the number of FFA teams that compete on the state competition level for the FFA portion of the event, the advisory committee has agreed to a rules change. In the result the highest scoring team that advances from the local competition to the area competition is not an FFA team, then the highest scoring FFA team at your local competition will be allowed to advance to the Area Competition (in addition to the highest scoring non-FFA Team). This FFA team will not be eligible to win the area or the state Envirothon but will still be able to advance to possibly compete in the State FFA Natural Resources Competition. These teams will take only the station tests at the Area and State Envirothon Competition and will not conduct an oral presentation. Should this team advance to the state competition they will only be eligible to win the State FFA Natural Resources Competition. Should the highest scoring team from your local competition be an FFA team then the team is still eligible to advance and win both the State Envirothon Program and the State FFA Competition. The oral presentation portion of the Area and State Competition are for purposes of winning the Envirothon Competition only and not a requirement to win the State FFA Natural Resources Competition. Should you have any questions please contact Dana Roberts at the VASWCD Office.

12. Coaches or advisors must accompany their team to the state contest. They will not have contact with their team at the stations during the competition but may be guides for other teams during the contest, if needed.
13. For the state FFA contest, the contest will consist of questions on soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and water stewardship in a changing climate. The station areas will be worth 1/6 each of the overall score.
14. Team members work together to answer test questions, submitting one completed test to the ecostation judges before moving to the next ecostation. Forty-five minutes will be allowed for answering questions at each ecostation.
15. The two teams with the highest overall score will be announced at the contest. The top team will participate in the National FFA Environmental and Natural Resources. The second place team has the opportunity to participate in that Environmental and Natural Resources contest at the Big E in Massachusetts.
16. Medical needs, emergencies and student conduct during the competition are the responsibility of the school/coach or group the team represents during the contest. Please have students share medical information such as allergies or medication needs with coaches before leaving for the contest. The contest should be considered a school or group-sanctioned field trip. Check with the school about appropriate permission slips or liability waivers that apply to field trips for your school system.
18. Lunch break is still part of the Envirothon. Studying or use of other materials is prohibited. Team advisors are prohibited from accompanying their team during any part of the competition, including lunch.
19. Teams may only carry the itinerary, writing tools, water bottles, snacks, clipboards and Biltmore sticks during the event. (Calculators and other items will be provided as needed at stations.)
20. Students are not permitted to carry cell phones or PDAs on the day of the event.
21. Any concerns related to testing should be brought to the immediate attention to the Chair of the Appeals Committee (Envirothon Coordinator). Teams must submit written appeals to the Envirothon Coordinator within 30 minutes of the completion of final testing station. An Appeals Committee will review these appeals and proper action will be taken if necessary. All decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.
22. Any infraction of the Virginia Envirothon Rules will result in disqualification and dismissal from the event and host site.

Additional rules and regulations for the State Envirothon Contest can be found at <http://www.vaswcd.org/envirothon.htm>.

These rules also apply to FFA teams who have won the district and area contests.

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

What is it?

Participate in this CDE to improve your skills in addressing environmental and natural resource issues. Individual and team activities at the competition include a national/global issues interview and cover press release writing, environmental/natural resources problem solving, soil tests and profiles, air/water analysis, GPS use, waste management, identification and ecological successions.

Career Opportunities

Career Clusters

- Agricultural and Forestry Production
- Management and Financial Specialties
- Marketing, Merchandising, and Sales
- Science and Engineering
- Social Services
- Education and Communication

Career opportunities found in the career cluster areas:

- **Agricultural and Forestry Production** – forest ranger, trapper, log grader, lumber mill operator, timber manager, park ranger, environmentalist, game warden, soil conservationist
- **Management and Financial Specialties** – extension agent, environmental consultant
- **Marketing and Financial Specialties** – forest products merchandiser
- **Science and Engineering** – environmental engineer, soil scientist, hydrologist, forestry scientist, rangeland scientist, water quality specialist
- **Social Services** – park manager, outdoor recreation specialist, regional planner
- **Education and Communication** – postsecondary teacher, writer/editor for environmental magazine, environmental educator

Educational Requirements

High School Diploma – trapper, lumber mill operator

Bachelor of Science – forest ranger, log grader, timber manager, park ranger, environmentalist, game warden, soil conservationist, environmental consultant, forest products merchandiser, soil scientist, hydrologist, rangeland scientist, park manager, outdoor recreation specialist, regional planner, writer/editor for environmental magazine, environmental educator

Graduate Degree- extension agent, environmental engineer, water quality specialist, postsecondary teacher

SAE Opportunities

Composting manure and selling it, working at the Soil Conservation Service, working at a recycling company that recovers both raw and recycled plastics for use in agricultural and construction drainage tile, doing research on an environmental topic, stream cleanup and restoration, building a pond

Proficiency Award Areas

Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management

Curriculum Resources

- *Agriscience & Technology.* L. DeVere Burton. Delmar Publishers, 1992.
- *Biological Science, an Ecological Approach.* Dubuque, IA. Kendall Hunt Publishers, 1992.
- *Environmental Science for Agriculture and the Life Sciences.* Albany, NY. Delmar Publishers 1994.
- *The Global Ecology Handbook. What You Can Do About the Environmental Crisis.* Courson, W.H. (Ed). Boston, MA. Beacon Press 1990.
- *Introduction to Forestry Science.* L. DeVere Burton. Delmar Publishers, 2000.
- *Managing Our Natural Resources.* Camp and Daughtery. Delmar Publishers, Inc. 1988. Albany NY.
- *Natural Resources and Environmental Technology,* Lee Interstate Publishers, Inc. 2000.
- *Our Natural Resources and Their Conservation.* Kircher, H.B., Wallace, D.L., & Gore, D.J. Danville, IL. Interstate Publishers, Inc. 1992.
- *Soil Science: Evaluation, Interpretation, and Management of Soil.* Columbia, MO. Instructional Materials Laboratory, University of Missouri, phone 1-800-669-2465.