

# 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.*



## State FFA Forestry Field Day

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> 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.



## State FFA Forestry Field Day Contest Rules

1. Send electronic registrations to Andy Seibel, **Information can be found on the Virginia FFA website <http://www.vaffa.org>.**
2. Students participating in Forestry Field Day events must wear **closed toed shoes, long pants and a FFA/school/club tee shirt**. Only the student(s) and team advisor of the students competing in the event may be within the restricted area; all other students and members of the public need to stay outside of the restricted area. The restricted area will be maintained so that everyone can watch the event without interfering with the competitors. All judge's rulings are final and cannot be appealed.
3. **Log Roll –**  
A log, approximately 12 inches in diameter on the small end and 8 to 10 feet in length, will be provided for the competition. The course dimensions are 15' X 30'. The log may be rolled with peaveys/cant hooks and contestant's feet. Contestants must place the log in front of the starting line, not on the starting line. Contestants may put their feet on the log, but may not rock or cause any movement in the log until given the start order from the judge. Once given the start order, the log will be rolled between two upright stakes. Once the log reaches the half way point on the course (marked by 2 stakes), the log must be spun end to end (180 degrees). At no point may a contestant use their hands to touch the log. The log may be lifted off the ground with the hooks. Once the log has been spun end to end, the log must be rolled completely over the finish line using the hooks and/or feet. Contestants must complete the course in three (3) minutes. Time stops when the log crosses the finish line. The best time wins. Entries limited to one (1) two-person team per school. There will be a 10 second penalty each time the middle stakes are touched by the log. The log must cross the finish line without touching the end stakes. If the end stakes are knocked down and the log does not pass between the stakes, the contestants will be disqualified. Lifting the log over a stake also results in a 10 second penalty. If 2 or more stakes are knocked down in a row, the contestants will be disqualified.
4. **Log Throw –**  
Throwing a pulpwood stick for distance. Course dimensions are 20' X 60'. Any method of wind up and delivery you can think of that is performed by one person using no artificial devices for assistance is allowed. Contestants who wind up by making more than one body turn will be disqualified. Contestants that step over the throw line will also be disqualified. Stick size is approximately 5 inches in diameter and 5 feet in length. Entries limited to one (1) individual per school. The distance is measured where the stick first hits the ground. Best distance wins.
5. **Cross-cut Saw –**  
Two-person team sawing through a log or cant. It is recommended that students also wear chaps, safety glasses and gloves for this event, all of which will be available. We encourage each team to bring their own saws, but please keep a safety guard on the blade except during the event. Teams may use their own cross-cut saw or use one provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The saw blade must cut through the entire log. If the cut /blade comes out at an angle then the team is disqualified. The students start with the blade centered on the log and begin the cutting process when told to start by the contest official. Time ends when the cut log hits the ground. Best time wins. Time limit of three (3) minutes. Log/cant size approximately 8-10 inches in diameter. Entries limited to one (1) two-person team per school. Lubricant is allowed only once – before sawing begins. State Forester may allow someone to sit/hold the opposite side of the log or get behind the saw buck

(opposite end of the log where the student is using the saw) to help hold the log and keep it from falling after the cut is made.

#### **6. Water Accuracy**

Squirt water with a backpack tank (Indian Pump) provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry. All teams must use the Indian Pump provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry. A #10 tin can is placed 15 feet away on a post 4 feet high. Most water in can in one (1) minute time wins. Entries limited to one (1) individual per school.

#### **7. Bow Saw -**

One contestant sawing through a log or cant. . It is recommended that students also wear chaps, safety glasses and gloves for this event, all of which will be available. Bring your own saw or use one provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry. In past events teams bringing their own equipment have performed better. We encourage each team to bring their own saws, but please keep a safety guard on the blade except during the event. The students start with the blade centered on the log and begin the cutting process when told to start by the contest official. Time ends when the cut log hits the ground. Best time wins. Time limit of two (2) minutes. Log/cant size approximately 6 inches in diameter. Entries limited to one (1) individual per school. Lubricant is allowed only once – before sawing begins. State Forester may allow someone to sit/hold the opposite side of the log or get behind the saw buck (opposite end of the log where the student is using the saw) to help hold the log and keep it from falling after the cut is made.

**NOTE:** All equipment will be provided. Individually owned equipment may be used (with the exception of the backpack tanks). We encourage each team to bring their own saws and peaveys. Individuals can participate in only one (1) event in order for their team to be eligible for team awards.

#### **Other considerations:**

**No contestants/coaches in competition area until event begins**

**Only contestants and coaches are allowed in competition area**

**Contestants must be ready when called for their event.**

**Judges/officials have the authority to inspect equipment for safety/function.**

**Judges/officials could disqualify contestant/team for unsportsmanlike conduct.**

**School/FFA rules need to be enforced regarding possession of tobacco products.**



# FORESTRY

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

### What is it?

Participate in this CDE to grow your skills in forestry management. At the competition, members identify trees and forestry equipment. They also demonstrate their skills measuring board-foot volume of standing trees and determine tree volume.

### Career Opportunities

#### *Career Clusters*

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

#### *Career opportunities found in the career cluster areas:*

- **Agricultural and Forestry Production** - forest ranger, log grader, lumber mill operator, timber manager, forester, forest fire fighter
- **Management and Financial Specialties** - log exporter, Christmas tree farm manager
- **Marketing, Merchandising and Sales** - forest products merchandiser
- **Science and Engineering** - forestry scientist, resource economist, silviculturist, dendrologist
- **Education and Communication** - postsecondary teacher, forest fire control tower communications

### Educational Requirements

**High School Diploma** - lumber mill operator, forest fire fighter, forest fire control tower communications

**Bachelor Degree** - forest ranger, log grader, timber manager, forest products merchandiser, forester, Christmas tree farm manager, silviculturist, dendrologist

**Graduate Degree** - forestry scientist, resource economist, postsecondary teacher

### SAE Opportunities

Chopping, selling, and delivering firewood, raising Christmas trees and selling them, employment at the U.S. Forest Service

### Proficiency Award Areas

Forest Management and Products  
Agriculture Sales and/or Services

### Curriculum Resources

- The U.S. Department of Interior Geological Survey Topographic Map Information and Symbols Key, Map Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80223.
- David A. Anderson, I.I. Holland and Gary L. Rolfe. *Forests and Forestry*, current edition. Danville, IL: The Interstate Printers Publishers, Inc.
- W.M. Harlow, E.S. Harrar, and F.M. White. *Textbook of Dendrology*, current edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Book Company
- B. McManar Collins and Fred M. White. *Elementary Forestry*. Reston, VA: Reston Publishing Company, Inc.
- *Silvics of Forests of United States*, Handbook #271, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 2417, 12<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20013
- Owners Manual - Homelite - Division of Textron, P.O. Box 7047, Charlotte, NC 28217.
- *Forestry Handbook*, current edition, Edited by Karl Wenger for the Society of American Foresters, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814.
- *Timber Harvesting*, current edition, American Pulpwood Association, The Interstate Printers & Publishers, Inc., Danville, IL.
- *Chain Saw Manual*, current edition, American Pulpwood Association, The Interstate Printers & Publishers, Inc.; Danville, IL
- William G. Camp & Thomas R. Daughtery. *Managing Our Natural Resources*, current edition,. Albany, N.Y: Delmar Publishers, Inc.
- Virginia Department of Forestry. <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/mgt/trees/index.shtml>
- *Forestry Guide for Agriculture Education in Virginia*, CTE Resource Center, current edition.