



Career & Leadership Development Event Awards & Recognition Updates 2025-2026

These revisions & updates will go into effect this school year (2025-2026).

** Designates an update/revision that is a result of a National FFA update.*

Career & Leadership Development Events

These changes will be reflected in the CDE/LDE rules available on FLAFFA.org in the coming weeks. All rules are marked with a revision date on the cover page. You are encouraged to download a new set of rules for each event to ensure that you are using the most current version.

General CDE/LDE Updates

Nature of Change

Virtual Preliminaries

Schools that have more than one chapter sharing a campus (example: middle school/high school or junior chapter/senior chapter) MUST sit for a virtual preliminary event at the same time.

Agricultural Issues CDE (HS)*

Nature of Change

Updated statement requiring competitors to show respect for all cultures.

Added a “Statement of Authenticity” requirement to be signed by all students competing on the team, i.e., “I certify that all materials presented here are of my own creation and that any work adopted from other sources is duly cited and referenced as such.” – *signature*

Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems

Nature of Change

Safety Procedures

Students will be required to present a safety waiver at check-in to participate in the state finals.

Additionally, if an event official deems that a student is not safely demonstrating a skill, they will ask the student to stop and student will forfeit the points for that practicum.

Students should be prepared to convert decimals to fractions throughout the event.

Aquaculture

Nature of Change

Written Exam Resource

Minor updates to publications included in the resource

Resources

Links to video will be included in the resource folder. The videos are not material students will be tested on but rather teaching tools to help students better understand concepts.

Citrus

Nature of Change

Written Exam Resource

The Florida Citrus Production Guide will now be used as an additional exam resource.

Species Identification

Diseases & Disorders

Rename:

Citrus Greening – Huanglongbing (HLB/Citrus Greening)

Tristeza – Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV)

Pests, Pathogens & Predators

Rename:

Citrus Psyllid – Asian Citrus Psyllid

Whitefly – Citrus Whitefly

Add:

Little Leaf Notcher

Thrips

Two-Spotted Mite

Weeds

Rename:

Common Beggar's Tick (Spanish Needle) – Spanish Needles

Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDE (MS/HS)*

Nature of Change

Written Exam

Added information describing the written exam and lists the sections of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) questions may be pulled.

Edit describes the use of a time clock for the demonstration. Added "Accuracy" to requirements for the Opening Ceremonies.

Updated references for the event.

Employment Skills LDE (HS)*

Nature of Change

Added a "Statement of Authenticity" requirement to be signed by the competitor, i.e., "I certify that all materials presented here are of my own creation and that any work adopted from other sources is duly cited and referenced as such." – *signature*

Environmental Science CDE (HS)*

Nature of Change

Updated GPS units that are allowed for use in the competition.

- GPS units that require an ancillary or third-party device such as cellular phone, ANT+ device, satellite communicator or any other stand-alone device to achieve communication or data sharing with other GPS units will be allowed for use in the event. All ancillary devices or technologies that a GPS receiver to engage in communication or data sharing with another GPS receiver are prohibited from the event.
- GPS units with any type of direct communication or data-sharing capabilities are prohibited from use in the ENR CDE. A GPS unit with "direct communication or data-sharing capabilities" is defined as any GPS unit that has the inherent ability to communicate or share data with other GPS units WITHOUT the use of an ancillary device or technology. This includes but is not limited to GPS units enabled with built-in two-way radio or wireless connectivity (e.g., cellular, Bluetooth, inReach Technology, a satellite communicator, or satellite subscription service) capabilities that allow direct unit-to-unit communication or data sharing.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking (MS/HS)

Nature of Change

Middle School Topic Area Reduction

The middle school topics will come from the areas of:

- Agricultural literacy and advocacy
- Current agricultural issues
- Advancing agriculture through agriculture science

- Food and fiber systems

Please note that the policy and guidelines for using AI discourage the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate dialogue modeling, e.g., Grammarly, to assist with word choice and selections. It may be used as a search engine. There are no additional rules in the handbook itself.

Farm & Agribusiness Management (MS Only)

Nature of Change

Addition of a formula sheet for middle school students to use during the event.

Floriculture CDE (MS/HS)

Nature of Change

New Production Practicum

Retail Pricing:

Participants will determine retail cost of finished arrangement, based on material costs provided.

References

Reference list updated.

Identification Lists

Plants:

Bromeliad – updated scientific name

Cactus – updated scientific name

Octopus plant – name changed to Umbrella plant

Portulaca/Moss rose – name changed to Moss Rose/Purslane

Equipment & Supply:

Goggles - deleted

Food Science CDE (MS/HS)

Nature of Change

Allergy Information Statement

Updated the Allergy Information as follows:

Allergy Information: Food products used in this event may contain or come in contact with potential allergens. Within the constraints of the event, reasonable accommodations for the nine recognized allergens (milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soybeans and sesame) and food intolerances can be made upon request. Advisors must submit a special needs request for participants with any allergies no less than THIRTY DAYS PRIOR to the event. The CDE superintendent will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate students with food allergies. However, Florida FFA makes no guarantee that we can secure and provide the requested accommodation for late and on-site requests.

Horse Evaluation CDE (HS Only)*

Nature of Change

Added a reference to the Oral Reasons section, the Horse Judging Contest Guidelines for Class Officials and Reasons Judges Section of the National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association Handbook.

Removed the copied pages of the AQHA rulebook and USEF rulebooks covering performance classes. Links to the rulebooks are provided in the Reference section.

Meat Evaluation CDE (MS/HS)*

Nature of Change

Retail ID

Adjusted the Retail Meat Cuts Identification to allow 30-40 cuts
Added training aid, Retail Meat Cuts Identification

Milk Quality and Products CDE (MS/HS)*

Nature of Change

Updated Purpose by adding “composition” to milk and dairy product quality and safety

Updated Objectives by adding “determining milk composition, and “Understand products made from milk, regulations and standards to ensure quality and safety, and marketing of dairy products and their alternatives to consumers.”

Updated Milk Flavor to allow water as a palate cleanser and “Cooked” to the list of defects

Updated the Product Identification Dairy vs. Non-Dairy with chart identifying the product and relative fat percentage, and defining flavor added and commercially whipped products.

Problem solving – Added “Standardization of components of milk and milk products”

Reference list updates

Nursery/Landscape CDE (MS/HS)

Nature of Change

References

Reference list updated.

Opening & Closing Ceremonies LDE

Nature of Change

Oral Questions

Updated question parameters for the Official FFA Manual.

Veterinary Science (HS)

Nature of Change

Clinical / Handling and Restraint Practicums

The clinical and handling and restraint practicums will be divided into an even/odd year rotation.
The rotation will always be based on the date of the state finals event.

Agricultural Proficiency Awards

2025 – 2026 Award Areas

Florida FFA will offer the following proficiency award areas in 2025-2026

- Agricultural Communications – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Education – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Processing - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Services - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agriscience Research – Animal Systems/Integrated Systems/Plant Systems
- Beef Production - Entrepreneurship
- Beef Production – Placement
- Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

- Diversified Agricultural Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Diversified Horticulture Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Diversified Livestock Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Equine Science – Entrepreneurship
- Equine Science – Placement
- Fiber and Oil Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Forage Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Forest Management and Products - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Fruit and Nut Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Goat Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Landscape Installation - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Market Lamb (FL only award) *NEW***
- Market Steer (FL only award) – formerly known as Feeder Steer**
- Market Swine (FL only award) – formerly known as Feeder Swine**
- Nursery Operations - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Poultry Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Service-Learning - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Sheep Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Small Animal Production and Care - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Specialty Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Swine Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Turf and Landscape Maintenance - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Veterinary Science - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Wildlife Production and Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement

***improved/updated application will be released late fall*