



# CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

## 2025 PLANNING GUIDE

National FFA looks forward to hosting career and leadership development events (CDEs/LDEs) during the 98<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention & Expo. Use this guide to understand updates for this year's events. All 2025 event information may be accessed through the [CDE/LDE](#) webpage.

### 2025 CDE/LDE Details

#### Dates

March	Declaration/Certification Opens
Late May	Tentative schedules released.
July 1	Declaration Deadline (for state staff)
July	Finals Hall, Awards Recognition and Main Stage Recognition Schedules Released
Aug.	Event Orientation Packets Posted to FFA.org
Sept. 2	Team Certification and Uploads Due Online <a href="#">Drop/Add Process</a> begins.
Mid-late Sept.	Employment Skills Virtual Components
Early Oct.	Virtual Components for Parliamentary Procedure

#### Handbook Updates

All revisions to the 2025 handbook will be published in January. The date of the handbook version is in the top right corner. The updates to the handbook will include the use of AI technology and how to include it in citations. Detailed changes to handbooks will be documented in the 2025 CDE/LDE Handbook Detailed Update Summary, which will be available on the CDE/LDE webpage.

#### Virtual Component Platforms

Virtual components may be delivered via Google Classroom and Zoom. Submissions will be confirmed/verified before the students are excused. In-person proctors will be utilized for virtual components.

#### Subscribe to CDE/LDE Alerts

Subscribe [here](#) to receive email notifications about new materials or updates posted to the CDE/LDE webpage.

### Details by Event

CDE/LDE	Component(s)	Key Details
<b>Agricultural Communications</b>	Writing Mechanics Exam Press conference Team Practicums	
<b>Agricultural Issues Forum</b>	Presentation	Upload portfolios by Sept. 2. Guideline on the inclusion of "personal communication" in citations if not used in the narrative.
<b>Agricultural Sales</b>	Written exam Sales Call Customer service call Team Activity	
<b>Agricultural Technology &amp; Mechanical Systems</b>	Written exam Skill practicums Team activity	
<b>Agronomy</b>	Identification—weeds, seeds, crop plants Soils Pest management—Insect identification Disease and disorders Written exam Team activity	

CDE/LDE	Component(s)	Key Details
<b>Conduct of Chapter Meetings</b>	Written exam Presentations	
<b>Creed Speaking</b>	Presentations	
<b>Dairy Cattle Evaluation &amp; Management</b>	Written exam Herd record evaluation classes Oral reasons classes Team Practicums (3) Team scenario	<p>The team activity topic area for 2025 is <b>Health/Diseases</b>.</p> <p>The General Knowledge exam will be replaced with 3 team practicums. The committee will announce five of the ten practicums listed below for the event in the orientation materials, and teams will be given three of those five to complete at the event. You can find a short description of each practicum <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herd Record Activity</li> <li>• Data Analysis from Automatic Systems Activity</li> <li>• Feed/Nutrition Activity</li> <li>• Genomic Data Activity</li> <li>• Herd Health Analysis and Practice Activity</li> <li>• Keep/Cull Activity</li> <li>• Economic Evaluation and Decision-Making Activity</li> <li>• Milking Equipment and Quality Activity</li> <li>• Current Issues Activity</li> <li>• Calf and Heifer Management Activity</li> </ul>
<b>Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>	This does not meet the requirements for a national competitive activity, and the liability of requiring students to handle animals unfamiliar with or to them is significant. We will not require members to hold dairy animals.
<b>Employment Skills</b>	<p><i>Hosted Virtually Mid-Sept. Video Face-to-face interview Follow-up thank you.</i></p> <p>Face-to-face Interview (Preliminary and Semi-Final) Follow-up correspondence Networking activity Telephone job offer</p>	<p>Upload resume, cover letter, and job description and complete online job application by Sept. 2. The online job application will be released on Aug. 19 and must be submitted by Sept. 2</p> <p>Preliminary, Semi-Final and Final rounds in-person in Indianapolis</p>
<b>Environmental &amp; Natural Resources</b>	Written exam Identification Four rotational practicums Team activity	
<b>Extemporaneous Public Speaking</b>	Presentations	
<b>Farm &amp; Agribusiness Management</b>	Individual exam Team activity	
<b>Floriculture</b>	Written exam Team activity Problem-solving/decision making Plant/equipment identification Floral arrangement Growing procedures Two rotational practicums	<p>The exam portion will cover the exam and problem-solving. Identification will include plants, equipment and disorders/diseases. Plant and Equipment Identification lists will be amended.</p> <p>A separate Bill of Sale/Pricing practicum will replace the Itemized List of Costs section from the floral arrangement, body flowers and mixed planter practicums. Additional practicums may include Greenhouse Problem-solving.</p>

CDE/LDE	Component(s)	Key Details
<b>Food Science &amp; Technology</b>	Written exam Safety/sanitation team activity Problem-solving/math Customer Inquiry Sensory evaluation Product specification compliance Product development team activity	
<b>Forestry</b>	Written exam Tree Measurement Tree identification Equipment, Forest Products and Disorders Identification 1 rotational practicum Forest industry scenario team activity	Combine 3 practicums into an annual practicum, Disorders, Equipment and Products Identification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment Identification</li> <li>• Tree/Forest Disorders Identification</li> <li>• Forest Products Identification</li> </ul> Rotational practicums (5 available practicums, announce 3 in advance and have 1 practicum at the event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Management (TSI)</li> <li>• Map Interpretation</li> <li>• Compass</li> <li>• Chainsaw Operation &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>• Forest Business Mgmt.</li> </ul>
<b>Horse Evaluation</b>	Written exam Cull/Keep classes of 8 video runs Halter and performance evaluation classes Oral reasons Team practicums (2), scenario/presentation	
<b>Livestock Evaluation</b>	Performance Class & Team Questions Keep/Cull classes Evaluation placing classes Oral reasons	
<b>Marketing Plan</b>	Presentations	Upload marketing plan by Sept. 2.
<b>Meats Evaluation &amp; Technology</b>	Written exam — lab practicum approach Retail meat cut identification Beef quality and yield grading Evaluation class questions Team activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beef Grading: extend to 2-6 sides for quality and yield grading</li> <li>• Questions Classes: extend to 2-3 classes of 5 questions each</li> <li>• Retail Identification: extend to up to 40 retail IDs and a possible revision of the cookery portion of the Retail ID</li> </ul>
<b>Milk Quality &amp; Products</b>	Written exam Problem-solving Milk flavor identification and evaluation Product identification Cheese identification California Mastitis Test (CMT) Team activity	CMT will be enhanced with a bacterial culturing component. Participants will assess images of Tri-plates acquired from the Minnesota Easy® Culture System. Assessment of the images would indicate one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contaminated</li> <li>2. Gram Negative</li> <li>3. No Growth</li> <li>4. Staphylococcus species</li> <li>5. Staphylococcus aureus</li> <li>6. Streptococcus species</li> <li>7. Streptococcus agalactiae</li> </ol> Each of the 5 CMT milk samples will have an accompanying image, and practice images will also be available.

CDE/LDE	Component(s)	Key Details
<b>Nursery/Landscape</b>	Identification Landscape estimating Nursery propagation/potting Team skills challenge with a team preparation score Verbal customer assistance Written exam	
<b>Parliamentary Procedure</b>	<i>Hosted Virtually in Early Oct. remains a possibility.</i> Written Exam Minutes Preliminary team problem-solving  Presentations Semi-final team problem-solving	
<b>Poultry Evaluation</b>	Written exam, placing classes Carcass parts identification Oral reasons — 2 classes Egg grading Written factors class Further processed evaluation Team activity	Updated Poultry Science Manual will be available.
<b>Prepared Public Speaking</b>	Presentations	Upload the manuscript by Sept. 2.
<b>Veterinary Science</b>	General Knowledge Math applications Identification Practicums - Clinical procedures & Handling/restraint Team activity	Two case-based scenarios that blend general knowledge, identification, clinical and handling/restraint practicums, and team activity.  The two scenarios will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter medicine and community animal health</li> <li>• Influenza A in livestock and poultry</li> </ul> The <a href="#">announcement of 2025 Focus Areas</a> provides specific references helpful for the 2025 event and will be included in the 2025 Veterinary Science handbook.