

To: Maryland Ag Teachers

From: Dr. Brooke Ridinger, Veterinary Science CDE Superintendent

The 2026 Maryland FFA Veterinary Science event will follow the National FFA Veterinary Science CDE format as outlined in the CDE Handbook. Please make sure you are using the **most recent handbook – Veterinary Science 2026** found at <https://ffa.app.box.com/v/2026-Vet-Science-Handbook>.

The focus areas for the 2026 event will be:

- **Emergent care in the canine and feline patient**
- **Enrichment, behavior, and welfare of animals in a laboratory/research setting.**

Make sure that you are also reviewing the 2026 Scenario Resource guide found at <https://ffa.app.box.com/v/Vet-Sc-Scenario-Resource-Guide>.

1. This event has a four-member team, and all four individual scores count.
2. Because of the number of students participating in this event, the event will be limited to team members only, no extra individuals.
3. Students must come to the event prepared with a clipboard, pencils, and a basic calculator.
4. **Attire for the event is FFA Official dress-No Scrubs** are to be worn at the state event.

***The 2026 Maryland FFA Veterinary Science CDE event will include the following:***

- General Knowledge = 100 points
- Math Applications = 100 points
- Identification of Equipment, Parasites & Animal Breeds =100 points
- Practicums = 320 points total
  - Clinical Procedures Practicum- 4 practicums @ 50 points each = 200 points
  - Handling and Restraining Practicum- 4 practicums @ 30 points each = 120 points

**DUE TO THE NUMBER OF TEAMS IN THIS EVENT, THERE WILL NOT BE A TEAM ACTIVITY.**

**Special Note:** This event covers an enormous amount of material and skills. It is expected that students will develop this knowledge and build on the skills over several years of practice and learning to prepare them for a career in this field. We encourage teachers to reach out to local veterinarians to assist with learning the concepts for this event. As with most fields, there is usually more than one way to perform a task, however, the practicum rubrics were developed using the cited resources to standardize expectations and scoring. We would suggest taking them to the veterinarians assisting with training so that they understand what students are expected to do in the event.

This year the event will take approximately 3 hours. We will be scheduling teams to arrive at specific

times. Each team will move through the timed segments of the event until they are finished, and students will be dismissed at that point. An email with the arrival schedule will be sent out closer to the event. We look forward to seeing you in March!