

2026 EASTERN REGIONAL CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

GOAL STATEMENT FOR THE EASTERN REGIONAL FFA ACTIVITIES

The primary goal of all Eastern Regional FFA events is to provide a meaningful and enriching learning experience for every participant. Eastern States Exposition welcomes teams from all Eastern Region states, regardless of their placement in state competitions to join us.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AT EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION WILL:

1. Include problem-solving and critical thinking in all activities.
2. Promote diversity by reducing barriers to participation.
3. Focus on future needs through new directions and cooperative activities.
4. Encourage broad participation and recognize excellence across all experience levels.
5. Acknowledge individual and team achievements, develop leadership, and recognize abilities.
6. Provide local recognition for superior performance at the local, state, and regional levels.

GENERAL RULES

Violations of any of the following rules may be grounds for the event superintendent to disqualify a participant or team from the activities.

A. TEAM ACTIVITIES

All CDE/LDE events will include team activities, except for those that are individual in nature (such as Public Speaking, Star, Tractor Operation, Dairy Handling, and Creed Speaking). Team activities will require two or more members to work together cooperatively to solve a problem, unless a CDE/LDE event has a specific definition.

Teams competing at the Eastern Regional FFA CDE/LDE may also be eligible to advance to the national competition. Completed forms, along with the appropriate entry fee and waiver, must be submitted to the FFA Coordinator by August 1. Any exceptions must be approved by the FFA Coordinator in advance.

B. ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

1. The student must be an FFA member in good standing with the local chapter, State, and National Association at the time of the CDE/LDE event in which they participate.
2. The student must meet the following criteria at the time of selection as a team member:
 - a. Be a high school student
 - b. Be enrolled in at least one Agricultural Education course and/or following a planned course of study, including a supervised occupational experience program, with the goal of entering an agricultural occupation.
3. The student may not have previously participated in the same official National FFA Event nor have previously placed first, second, or third in the same Eastern Regional CDE/LDE at Eastern States Exposition.
4. Official dress is required for all events, with some events deducting points for non-compliance.
5. Registration for events is done through **judgingcard.com**. Additional forms for other activities can be found in the FFA section on **thebige.com**.
6. **WAIVERS** are required by the Eastern States Exposition and FFA for all registered contestants.
7. Students may participate in multiple events if no scheduling conflicts exist.
8. **Special needs students:** Students requiring special assistance may not receive direct aid from their agricultural education teachers but may receive assistance from other FFA advisors or contest officials. If special assistance is needed, the CDE/LDE Superintendent must be informed at least one month prior to the event.
9. CDE/LDE officials may stop a contestant if their actions are deemed hazardous to themselves or others. Such stoppage will result in disqualification from that section of the event.
10. Any issues concerning the rules should be first referred to the CDE/LDE event supervisor, and if necessary, to Eastern States Exposition FFA Coordinator or Assistant.

SCHEDULE

The schedule, including times and locations for the CDE/LDE events, will be available separately on **thebige.com**. Any changes made by the superintendents of each CDE/LDE will also be posted on The Big E website.

FEES

The participation fee is set at \$10 for each team or individual event. Please note that the fee for the STAR Competition is \$10 per individual. Invoices will be sent directly to each state association.

THE BIG PARADE

Application Form: <https://www.thebige.com/p/entertainment/parade> - due the last Friday in June.

All FFA members participating in the Eastern States Exposition are requested to march in the FFA Segment of the daily Big E Parade. The application is due the last Friday in June.

SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

1. A state must enter at least **eight CDE/LDEs** to be eligible for this award.
2. CDE/LDEs excluded from the Sweepstakes include any individual events (e.g., STAR Program, Safe Tractor Event, Creed Speaking, Dairy Handlers, and both Public Speaking events).
3. The state with the **lowest number of points** (highest placings) in any **eight team events** will be declared the winner. If a state enters more than eight team events, only the highest-placing eight team events will be considered for the sweepstakes award.

STATE PRESIDENT'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Up to **nine state presidents** from the Eastern FFA Region are selected each year to serve as interns during FFA Days at Eastern States Exposition. A committee of officials selects the interns based on the applications submitted. The Eastern States Exposition covers all expenses for the interns, including travel. Interns are expected to be at the Eastern States Exposition from **Wednesday late afternoon** before FFA Days and depart on **Sunday**. Applicants must be 18 years of age as of September 1 to apply. The intern application is available at **thebige.com**.

AWARDS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

An **Awards Banquet** is held for FFA members who have participated in the CDE/LDE events at Eastern States Exposition. This is a **ticketed event**, and tickets are available through FFA Superintendents on **Friday and Saturday** of the competition. Due to the number of participants, only FFA members and one coach per team are eligible to attend. No awards will be announced prior to this program, except for Eastern States Exposition STARS.

The program will be conducted by state officers from various states within the region, along with the FFA interns. Awards are sponsored by Eastern States Exposition and Farm Credit East.