



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education  
200 Riverview Plaza, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor | P.O. Box 330 | Trenton, NJ 08625 | 877-AgEdFFA | jerseyageducation.nj.gov

*In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 101 ANNUAL NEW JERSEY FFA SPRING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Date: January 6, 2025

To: New Jersey FFA Chapter Advisors/Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Educators

From: Jenny J. Allen, State FFA Specialist

CC: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Advisor

Re: Spring Career Development Events  
Thursday, April 10, 2025 – 9:30 am – 1:30 pm  
Cook & Douglass Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903

#### WHAT DO SPRING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS INVOLVE?

Agricultural Sales, Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems, Agronomy, Environmental and Natural Resource Management, Nursery/Landscape and Veterinary Science Events will be conducted using the rules, judging forms and references available in the New Jersey FFA Career Development Events Handbooks 2025 modified from the National FFA Handbooks. Handbooks can be found on the State Activity Guide and all 12.000 documents. Students should be prepared in all event sections.

#### WHO CAN ATTEND?

Students and teachers from all schools with Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are encouraged to attend and participate in the educational activities provided. FFA activities are integral to Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources instruction.

Teachers will be assigned to assist at various Career Development Events, and they will work together to supervise students throughout the day. All students attending **must** participate in the Career Development Events provided. **DO NOT bring extra students. Provisions for observation will not be made.**

#### WHO CAN COMPETE?

1. Contestants must be currently enrolled in an approved food, agriculture and natural resources education course and appear on the chapter's roster.
2. Students who have been members of a first-place official team in a state event and have participated at the highest level for that event may not participate again in that particular event.
3. All Career Development Events require a four-member team. The score of all four team members constitutes the official team score.

## HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

Participant lists and payment for all chapters participating in Spring Career Developments is requested by **Saturday, March 15**. **Please sign-up using [www.judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com).**

### Steps to using the [judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com) registration.

1. Log in to [www.JudgingCard.com](http://www.JudgingCard.com) (If you have an AET account, login using that information. If you don't have an AET account, use your chapter number for both the username and password (i.e., NJ0000). Both are case sensitive!)
2. Click on the left most icon at the bottom of the screen for "Registration and Information."
3. Use the month list at the top of the calendar to browse to the month of the contest you need to register for (April).
4. Click on the event link "New Jersey Spring CDEs" on the calendar (April 10) ...this will pull up the event's registration page.
5. Click the link to "Online Registration" at the top of the page.
6. Click on the link to "Registration" next to each event you need to register for (i.e., Agricultural Sale, ENR, etc.).
7. Change the "Number of Contestants" to what you would like, specify an advisor, and then specify contestant names. Students **MUST** be on the FFA roster in order to be added to the registration form.
8. Click the "Submit Entry" button.
9. Repeat steps 6, 7, and 8 for each event for which you need to register.
10. Review all of the entries back on the event's main page.

A minimum of five teams is necessary to run any state Career Development Event.

Registration fees are used to pay Career Development Event expenses and to provide awards to FFA members. Please make checks payable to: Treasurer, State of New Jersey with "FFA Spring CDE" in the memo line and send to the Office of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330. **Registrations received after March 15<sup>th</sup> are subject to a \$10 late fee per event.** Registration will not be accepted any later than one week prior to the event. Please be prepared to pay prior to or at the registration desk at the Round House. ***Chapters who affiliate with the "Blue Supplemental Package" will have state CDE fees waived.***

*(Remember, your payment is non-refundable since your registration is what we use to pay for event expenses. NOTE: The only exception, according to New Jersey's FFA Conference Refund Policy, is a doctor's note or proof of death in the immediate family along with a cover letter explaining the circumstance. This must be sent to the state executive board within one month of the event.)*

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost is \$44.00 per team, or \$11.00 per person (maximum 4-team members), unless the chapter is Blue Affiliated (then registration is waived); registration fee is assessed per contest for each chapter participating. Please pay this fee at the time of pre-registration. Make checks payable to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey. In the memo area of the check, please identify "FFA Spring CDE". **CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## WHERE DO I PARK ON EVENT DAY?

Observe Rutgers parking regulations. Parking along side of the road near the barns or Round House constitutes a traffic hazard. Please do not park at the Round House. Additional parking details will be provided closer to the event date.

## WHEN AND WHERE DO I CHECK-IN ON APRIL 10?

Events will **START PROMPTLY at 10:00 am as SCHEDULED.** One teacher from each chapter will pay assessment fees and confirm teams at the Round House **before 9:30 am.** Your teams must be verified at the sign-in desk in order to qualify for competition. Please plan to arrive on campus in a timely manner. Arriving at 10:00 or later does not provide your students with a fair opportunity and may result in them missing a component of their event.

### **WHERE DO TEAMS NEED TO BE BY 9:45 AM?**

Official teams will be at the event locations at the starting time. CDE Coordinators have the right to disqualify teams that arrive late and might not be able to allow teams to make up missed components of the event. A timely start helps make an efficient finish. Please respect other participants by having your students to the event prior to the start time. **All contestants' registrations must be confirmed by advisors on the day of the event.**

1. Agricultural Sales Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Cook Student Center (MPR ABC, Merle V. Adams Room, George H. Cook room) – 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
2. Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center – 20 Indyk-Engel Way, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
3. Agronomy Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.  
Holly House – 130 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
4. Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Horticulture Farm 1 – Log Cabin, 130 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
5. Nursery/ Landscape Career Development Event - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center – 20 Indyk-Engel Way, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
6. Veterinary Science Career Development Event – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Douglas Campus Center, Traves Hall A, Douglass Lounge and Meeting Rooms A, B, C & D – 100 George Street

### **HOW ARE EVENTS SCORED?**

1. FFA members on the current chapter roster make up the team score. If a contestant is found not to be a member, then his/her score will be dropped from the team score, thus causing contest teams to be re-ranked for recognition.
2. The chapter with the highest team score in each event will have the opportunity to represent the New Jersey FFA Association at the National FFA Career Development Event in Indianapolis, IN in October 2025 and the Eastern States Regional FFA Career Development Events in Springfield, Massachusetts in September 2025. Team members must be accompanied to these events by advisor(s).

### **WHEN WILL WE KNOW RESULTS?**

Official results will be available to all chapters/schools via email, the state Agricultural Education website and at [www.judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com). **DO NOT CALL THE STATE OFFICE FOR RESULTS.** Results become **OFFICIAL** when an email is sent from the Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education announcing the results.

### WHAT STUDENT RECOGNITION IS THERE?

Only dues-paid members and chartered chapters may compete for awards and for further competition. Non-members and non-chartered chapters may participate; however, they are not eligible for trips, trophies, certificates, or banners. Registration fees may be higher for non-members to cover costs.

1. A banner or plaque will be awarded to the first-place team in each state level event at the annual State Convention.
2. Medals will be awarded to the first, second and third place individuals overall in each event and certificates will be awarded to the top five (5) students who excel in practical parts of the events.
3. A Career Development Event Sweepstakes Award will be presented to the New Jersey team that places the highest in National Competition. This includes all National FFA Events and Land Judging/Homesite.

### WHAT ARE THE RULES?

1. No individuals from the same school/chapter may talk, confer, or otherwise communicate. Penalty will be loss of score for that section of the event or disqualification from the event. Event coordinator has the authority to make disqualifications.
2. Participants are NOT allowed to use (or have visible) electronic devices during the event, unless for medical reasons or a portion of the event requires usage. This includes cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, etc. Participants will be allowed to use calculators, if specified for that event; however, cell phone calculators are not permitted! **Failure to adhere to these rules can result in disqualification.**
3. All individuals participating will judge in a cooperative manner following the rules set forth by the event coordinator.
4. No school/chapter will use Rutgers Cook Campus or Delaware Valley University for the training of teams. **Penalty will be disqualification.**
5. All the events require four members to compete and team scores will be based on all four members. See National Career Development website for clarification, <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/vpx52yly9mpiai35srdzl7oq68kldnbt>
6. All events will be scored using scantron sheets. It is important for students to listen to directions and to fill out the sheets correctly to receive credit. Sample scantron sheets are available for practice on the State Activity Guide.
7. There will be no separate alternate teams.
8. A student may not compete in more than one event during FFA Career Development Events. A student cannot compete in more than one event at the National Competition each year. This includes public speaking, parliamentary procedure and all non-leadership team events.

9. The \$40 National level competition fee and \$10 Eastern States competition fee will be paid by the competing school regardless of program affiliation status. These fees must be paid directly to New Jersey FFA (payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey).

### **WHAT SHOULD MY STUDENTS WEAR AND HOW SHOULD THEY ACT?**

1. All Contestants will abide by the FFA Code of Ethics. This includes:
  - a. FFA jacket or a nametag with name, school and chapter worn in all FFA events.
  - b. Neat and safe clothing is required to promote a positive image for the FFA. Complete and proper official dress should be worn for Agricultural Sales and Floriculture. Travel official dress (ex. black work boots) is appropriate for Nursery Landscape and Environmental/Natural Resources. Appropriate shop attire should be worn for the Ag Technology & Mechanical Systems event. Participants in the Veterinary Science CDE must wear either scrubs (top and bottom, solid color) or polo with slacks.
  - c. Outdoor events (e.g. Agronomy, ENR and Nursery/Landscape) will be held rain or shine. Please be prepared (with plastic coverings for scantron sheets) and dress accordingly for such weather conditions.
2. Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be disqualified and asked to leave the event area.
3. Contestants should also be familiar with the proper use of the FFA jacket (i.e. members never smoke while wearing the FFA jacket). Advisors should review the Official Manual and/or Student Handbook with students regarding Code of Ethics, Official Dress, and proper use of the FFA jacket. Consult the Official Manual for descriptions of official dress.
4. The use of ANY tobacco product is not permitted at any FFA event including Career Development Events.

### **WHEN AND WHERE DO WE EAT?**

The event schedule is continuous from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. You may bring lunch or plan to purchase lunch at the Douglas Campus Student Center or at the Food Science Cafeteria.

### **HOW DO I GET SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MY STUDENTS?**

The New Jersey FFA Association is committed to providing equal access to our events and activities for all people. Please utilize the Request for Reasonable Accommodations to get special assistance for your student(s). Use this form to request a reasonable accommodation or assistance at least 3 weeks before any state-level events: <https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/accommodations-request>. A new form will need to be submitted for each event for which a reasonable accommodation is being requested. This information will be kept confidential and will be used only to process the request. Our staff will review the request upon receipt and contact the requestor with additional information. The association cannot guarantee accommodations or assistance if a form is received less than 3 weeks before an event. Accommodations being requested that require the assistance of another person (nurse, interpreter, scribe, reader, etc.) is the responsibility of the school/requestor. It is also the school/requestor's responsibility to provide any approved equipment to aide in the accommodation process, if applicable. To conduct a state level Career Development Event efficiently, no additional time will be provided to a student to complete portions of

that Career Development Event.

**AS A TEACHER AND FFA ADVISOR, WHAT IS MY ROLE?**

The support and assistance of teachers and FFA advisors is vital for the success of Career Development Events. This assistance includes, serving as proctors or timekeepers for components of the event, assisting students with the Scantron scoring system, scoring of some rounds, and helping as needed. You will also serve as an adult chaperone for the students in your event, as their advisor may be assisting at a different event location.

**Tentative event assignments are provided below. In the event that you are unable to assist where indicated, please notify Jenny J. Allen at [jenny.allen@ag.nj.gov](mailto:jenny.allen@ag.nj.gov) immediately. Prior to the event, confirmation emails will be sent to you reminding you of where your assistance is requested.**

After you have dropped your students at their event locations, please report immediately to your assigned event location and sign in with the career development event coordinator or official. They will let you know where your help is most crucial for the event.

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT ASSIGNMENTS (*Tentative*)**

### **AG SALES**

10 AM at Cook Student Center in MPR ABC, Merle Adams Room – 59 Biel Road

Mr. Mike Adams  
Mr. Patrick Dougherty  
Mrs. Kristina Guttadora  
Mrs. Nan Hamilton  
Ms. Adrianna Ruggieri  
Mrs. Patty Smith  
Mrs. Jillian Wojtaszek  
Ms. Jill Wetzel

### **AGRONOMY**

10 AM at Holly House – 130 Log Cabin Road

Mr. Sam Casqueira  
Mr. Brian Hayes  
Mrs. Joanna Knoblauch  
Ms. Kristin Masters  
Mr. Andrew Morris  
Mrs. Kylie Naylor  
Ms. Renee Stillwell

### **NURSERY/LANDSCAPE**

10 AM at Turf Farm – 20 Indyk-Engel Way

Ms. Katie Avagnano  
Mr. Ed Birdsall  
Mr. Brian Ducey  
Mrs. Keely DiTizio  
Mr. Andee Dixon  
Mr. Erik Fargo  
Mr. Brian Martin  
Ms. Catherine Markowitz  
Ms. Laura Pinhas  
Mr. Liam Ryan  
Ms. Dawn Viveiros-Meredith

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### **AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY & MECHANICS**

10 AM at Turf Farm – 20 Indyk-Engel Way

Mr. Dale Cruzan  
Mr. Matt Duckworth  
Mr. Matt DiTizio  
Ms. Deanna Miller  
Mr. Matthew Monaco  
Mr. Justin Naylor

### **ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCE**

10 AM at Rutgers Gardens Log Cabin/Pavilion –130 Log Cabin Road

Ms. Kimberly Bartholomew  
Ms. Anabela Bentzinger  
Mrs. Annaliese Castellini  
Mr. Owen Donnelly  
Ms. Peggy Grady  
Ms. Karissa Kester  
Dr. Robin McLean  
Ms. Jennifer Obrizan  
Ms. Carmela Schlitzer  
Ms. Kaitlyn Tallamy  
Ms. Hanna Toft  
Ms. Rachel Van Gorden

### **VETERINARY SCIENCE**

10 AM at Douglass Student Center, Meeting Rooms A, B, C, and D and Traves Hall A  
100 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Ms. Rachel Arena  
Ms. Amy Balliet  
Ms. Carly Chaapel  
Mr. Dan Delcher  
Mrs. Denise Emmons  
Ms. Giselle Gomes  
Mrs. Jessica Heritage  
Ms. Joanna Knoblauch  
Dr. Tiffany Morey  
Ms. Wendi Rensman  
Ms. Taryn Romanczak  
Mr. Joel Rudderow  
Mrs. Patty Thorne