



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM NOTIFICATION

Updated: July 31, 2023

The National FFA Organization provides information on an annual basis regarding awards and recognition areas for future years. We are pleased to announce that the National FFA Organization will provide the following programs and changes for the 2024 award/convention year.

Career and Leadership Development Events

CDEs and LDEs are open to all grade levels of active membership (grades 7-12 at the time of qualifying) except for the Conduct of Chapter Meetings and Creed Speaking LDEs. Please review the program handbooks located on FFA.org. The following events will be offered in 2024.

Career Development Events

- Agricultural Communications
- Agricultural Sales
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems
- Agronomy
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management
 - Dairy Handlers Activity
- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Farm & Agribusiness Management
- Floriculture
- Food Science and Technology
- Forestry
- Horse Evaluation
- Livestock Evaluation
- Marketing Plan
- Meats Evaluation and Technology
- Milk Quality and Products
- Nursery/Landscape
- Poultry
- Veterinary Science

Leadership Development Events

- Agricultural Issues Forum
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings
- Creed Speaking
- Employment Skills
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Prepared Public Speaking

CDE/LDE Program Adjustments for 2024

New Updates

Agricultural Communications – The media plan proposal and media plan pitch with the announced scenario have been removed. The now combined editing and communications exam, “Writing Mechanics,” will be used. Teams will begin with a press conference followed by a question-and-answer session. Each team will collaborate on their practicums, determining their message and their plan for communicating their message through the completion of the practicums (Web Design, Video Production and Journalistic and Opinion writing). A presentation of their message and plan will complete the event.

Agronomy – The agronomy crop regions have been reduced to 4 regions, and the crop lists reduced in each region to focus on the significant crops by value and acreage. The team activity is divided into written and oral sections, each valued at 250 points. The written portion will focus on the four management areas in the CCA exam – Soil & Water, Nutrient, Pest and Crop and a summary/recommendation. Individual team members roleplay as agronomic advisors or experts in each area, then collaborate on a final recommendation/summary and oral presentation. Rubrics will be adjusted to reflect this change.

Additional Updates

All updates, including previously announced updates related to the Floriculture, Horse Evaluation, Milk Quality and Products, and Nursery/Landscape CDEs, for the 2024 events are found in the [2024 Detailed Summary of CDE, LDE Handbook Updates](#) or the complete updated handbooks through the [CDE/LDE webpage](#).

Timeline of Changes

Over the next two years, we will be adjusting the timeline for the release of CDE/LDE updates and handbooks. The new timeline will be posted on the CDE/LDE webpage and is available [here](#). This adjustment results in an earlier announcement of the Planning Guide and the release of final handbooks for the convention year.

All Career and Leadership Development updates and announcements are on the [CDE/LDE Webpage](#).

AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Application Update

The application has been revised to include measurement of all five SAE for All Foundational components. The following applications sections have been updated:

- Performance Review A1, Performance Review B1 & B2 and Performance Review C
- In Basic Setup, AFNR Primary Pathway selection will be limited to the AFNR Pathways
 - Cluster Skills (CS) and Career Ready Practices (CRP) are not pathways, so will not be available to select for any award areas except:
 - Agricultural Education
 - Agricultural Communications.
 - The Biotechnology Pathway performance indicators will be available regardless of the Primary Pathway selected.
 - AFNR pathway updates approved by the National Council for Agricultural Education will be updated in the award application in the following award cycle.
- Skills, Competencies and Knowledge (SKC) section will be updated to allow:
 - up to five SKC selections from the applicant-selected Primary Pathway.
 - up to two SKC selections from any AFNR Pathway.
 - up to three performance indicators may be selected from Cluster Skills (CS) and/or Career Ready Practices (CRP)
- Photos – there are now two photo sections:
 - Workplace Safety Photos – two photos & captions must be used to show the applicant demonstrating safety practices appropriate to the project described in the application.
 - Project Photos – four photo pages will remain unchanged and continue to show information about the project(s) included in the application.

A detailed description and sample of changes is available [HERE](#).

The updated award application will be available in November after the national convention.

Agriscience Research Proficiency Award Areas

2024 will be the final award of the Agriscience Research Proficiency Awards. Starting in 2025, these awards will be recognized as part of the Agriscience Fair program.

Available Proficiency Award Areas

The following 45 proficiency award areas will be offered for 2023-2024. Updated proficiency award area descriptions will be released in the fall of 2024.

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| • Agricultural Communication | • Equine Science – Entrepreneurship |
| • Agricultural Education | • Equine Science - Placement |
| • Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication | • Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production |
| • Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship | • Forage Production |
| • Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance - Placement | • Forest Management |
| • Agricultural Processing | • Fruit Production |
| • Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship | • Goat Production |
| • Agricultural Sales - Placement | • Grain Production |
| • Agricultural Services | • Landscape Management |
| • Agriscience Research – Animals Systems | • Nursery Operations |
| • Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems | • Outdoor Recreation |
| • Agriscience Research – Plant Systems | • Poultry Production |
| • Beef Production - Entrepreneurship | • Service-Learning |
| • Beef Production - Placement | • Sheep Production |
| • Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship | • Small Animal Production and Care |
| • Dairy Production - Placement | • Specialty Crop Production |
| • Diversified Agricultural Production | • Specialty Animal Production |
| • Diversified Crop - Entrepreneurship | • Swine Production - Entrepreneurship |
| • Diversified Crop - Placement | • Swine Production - Placement |
| • Diversified Horticulture | • Turf Grass Management |
| • Diversified Livestock Production | • Vegetable Production |
| • Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management | • Veterinary Science |
| | • Wildlife Management |

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/award/proficiencies/>

AGRISCIENCE FAIR

Application Update

Minor application updates will take place to accommodate any needed changes to the online/electronic submission of agriscience fair applications for national competition.

- Skills, Competencies and Knowledge (SKC) section will be updated to:
 - select three (previously two) SKC selections from the applicant-selected Primary Pathway.
 - select two (previously one) SKC selections from any supporting AFNR Pathway.

A detailed description and sample of changes is available [HERE](#).

Category Structure

- Animal Systems
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Plant Systems
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems
- Social Science

Division Structure

- Division 1 – Individuals in grades 7 and 8
- Division 2 – Teams of two in grades 7 and 8
- Division 3 – Individuals in grades 9 and 10
- Division 4 – Teams of two in grades 9 and 10
- Division 5 – Individuals in grades 11 and 12
- Division 6 – Teams of two in grades 11 and 12

Reminders:

- The handbook and rubrics are updated annually. The updated handbook and rubrics will be published in January 2024.
- Starting in 2025, Agriscience Research Proficiency Awards will be recognized as part of the Agriscience Fair program. 2024 will be the final awarding of the Agriscience Research Proficiency Awards.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/agriscience-fair/>

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD PROGRAM

Application Update

Minor application updates will take place to accommodate any needed changes to the online/electronic submission of agriscience fair applications for national competition.

Reminders:

- The handbook and rubrics are updated annually. The updated handbook and rubrics will be published in January 2024.
- The next revision of the National Chapter Award Program will be after the National Council for Agricultural Education updates the National Quality Program Standards (NQPS). Depending on when the Council releases the updated NQPS, there may be a one-cycle delay in updating the application, as updates will not be made mid-award cycle.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/national-chapter/>

AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

No significant changes are planned to the American FFA Degree application for the 2023-24 year.

Detailed State approval and national submission deadlines continue to be as follows:

- **March 15** – Applications submitted by this date are guaranteed a two-week revision opportunity if required.
- **April 15** – Applications submitted by this date should have a two-week revision opportunity if required, but not guaranteed.
- **May 15** – Applications submitted by this day may have a one-week or less revision opportunity, which is not guaranteed.
- **June 15** – Final Submission Deadline – Applications submitted in June will have no revision opportunity and will be rejected should the national review find any issues.

Please continue to use the following resources to help determine appropriate community service activities:

- [Community Service Guidelines for FFA Degrees](#)

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/american-ffa-degree/>.

AMERICAN STAR AWARDS

No significant application updates are planned for the 2023-2024 year. The star application is slated for revision in 2024, with a new version in 2025.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/american-star-awards/>

The state approval/submission deadline remains June 15. No revision opportunity is offered for this competitive application.

REVISIONS

Agricultural Proficiency Awards and Degree Revisions

The Development Committee comprises representatives from the following stakeholder groups: agricultural education teachers, teacher educators and state staff. The committee continues to work on additional revisions to the Agricultural Proficiency Award, American FFA Degree and Star Award applications. Future work is focused on application financials and award categories/pathways. As progress is made in the development, we will share out for stakeholders to review. Additional revisions will be instituted for the 2024-25 year. The timeline will be posted on the [Awards & Degrees webpage](#) and is available [here](#).

Agriscience Fair and National Chapter Award Program Revisions

The Agriscience Fair and National Chapter Award Programs will be reviewed annually, and updates to the Handbooks will be made annually with changes shared in January/February of the program year. Please check the updated versions of the Agriscience Fair and the National Chapters Awards web pages. More significant and in-depth updates will be shared 18 months before the implementation to allow for updates that reflect classroom and industry changes. The timeline will be posted on the [Awards & Degrees webpage](#) and is available [here](#).

CDE-LDE Revisions

The future framework of the National FFA Career and Leadership Development Events Programs is under development for 2024 and beyond. Future competitive events will be developed and revised so that FFA members can demonstrate the assessment of industry-driven standards to all stakeholders and have the practical experience to start their careers or further their education. That will include identifying new ways to conduct events so that event components have industry relevance and relation to the classroom and hands-on demonstration. Also, event processes will be evaluated to ensure components, scoring, and rubrics are intentional and appropriate.