

AGRICULTURE ISSUES

Participants in the **Agricultural Issues Forum Leadership Development Event (LDE)** research the pros and cons of an agricultural issue and present their findings to a panel of judges.

This team LDE challenges students to investigate a variety of current local, state, national and international issues facing agriculture through classroom instruction. Students then demonstrate through portfolio, presentation and questioning an understanding of the principles and fundamentals of agricultural issue analysis.

Communication, leadership and teamwork skills are critical to event success. This event connects agriculture students with professionals in the industry as they research, present and then understand complicated issues facing the agricultural landscape – making it especially attractive to students with an interest in agricultural policy, law and international relations.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **TEAMS PER CHAPTER:** Limit one team per FFA Chapter. Each team will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level. Topic cannot be reused the following year.
2. **TEAM SIZE & PARTICIPATION:** Each team will consist of three and a maximum of seven students who are actively participating, orally presenting and available to answer judges' questions. A student assisting in the delivery of the presentation in any form (i.e. Computer set up, operation stage set up) will be counted towards the total number of students and would be expected to stand for questions before the judges.
3. **OFFICIAL DRESS:** Presentations may include official FFA attire, costumes, props, skits, and other creative paraphernalia. **At least one student is required to be in OFFICIAL FFA DRESS.**
4. **PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:** Seating of the teams in the preliminary round will be done by the use of the teams written manuscript/presentation score. The number of teams in each flight will be determined prior seating. Teams canceling out of the event may require an adjustment of the number of teams in a flight; and under the direction of the Career Devolvement Event Coordinator. Team order of presentation will be drawn 30 minutes prior to the posted start time at the coach's orientation.
5. **FINAL ROUND:** The final round will either consist of 4 or 6 teams depending upon the number of flights and total number of teams. This will be done under the direction of the Career Devolvement Event Coordinator. Team order of presentation will be drawn 30 minutes prior to the posted start time at the coach's orientation in the final round. 5 judges will be used for the finals and questions will be used to break a tie
6. **TEAM SET UP:** Team set up is the responsibility of the team members only. Advisors / Coaches may only assist in the set up / start up and takedown of the multimedia projectors, computer, TV, VCR, DVD and/or other items of high dollar value that the chapter liability may come into play.
7. **ROOM LAYOUT:** The layout of the room may be moved around to improve the presentations effect. Once the judges have been seated they may not be move. The presentations will be designed to be viewed by the judges. The audience at-large will not be of concern to the presenters.
8. **TIME LIMITS:** Five minutes will be allowed for set up, in the event of equipment failure no time extension will granted. If set up requires more than 5 minutes the team will then cut into their allotted time for presentation. The presentation will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The presenters will receive a signal at 10 minutes and at 14 minutes. At 15 minutes, the timekeeper will announce that time is up, and the presentation will end. A maximum of 5 minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of the 5 minutes. Five minutes will be allowed for take down.
9. **EQUIPMENT PROVIDED:** Equipment provide by the event superintendent includes: projector, screen, table and chairs. Other equipment is allowed, but presenting team must provide it.

EVENT FORMAT:

1. Each team will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level.

2. The issue will come from one of the following seven agricultural issue topics as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues instructional materials: *The same topic is not used in consecutive years by the same chapter/advisor. Research on the topic must be current and students must be involved in the research of the topic and development of the portfolio.*
 - Environmental Issues
 - Agricultural Technology Issues
 - Animal Issues
 - Agricultural Career Issues
 - Economy and Trade Issues
 - Agricultural Policy Issues
 - Food Safety Issues
3. The presentations will be designed to be viewed by the judges. The audience at-large will not be of concern to the presenters.

PORTFOLIO:

- The portfolio score will be used to seed the team and the score will remain through finals.
 - The Portfolio will be limited to ten pages maximum not including cover page.
 - The cover page will include the title of the issue, name of the chapter.
 - A maximum of ten (10) points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum amount of pages.
 - Six copies of the Portfolio must be submitted by 2pm on Thursday of State Convention to the CDE Coordinator at State Convention. Late Portfolios will receive a 10% deduction on portfolio scores. All paperwork received more than 1 hour late will receive a 0. All Paperwork for the CDE's listed above will only be scored once and that score will follow the participant throughout the state CDE.
 - The portfolio should include items described in **A, B and C below**, and will be limited to ten pages single sided or five pages double sided maximum.
- A. A maximum of two pages of the Portfolio will include a summary of the issue, answering the questions that are most relevant to your topic:
 1. List course(s) in which instruction occurred and total number of students receiving instruction.
 2. Why is this issue important now?
 3. What is the nature of the issue?
 4. Who is involved in the issue?
 5. How can the issue be defined?
 6. What is the historical background of the issue?
 7. What caused the issue?
 8. What are the risks?
 9. What are the benefits?
 10. Is there strong disagreement on how the issue should be solved?
 - B. Bibliography of all resources and references cited which may include personal interviews and any other supporting material.
 - C. Documentation that local forum(s) occurred such as:
 - When, where and to whom the local forum(s) was presented to and indicate how many community members were in attendance at the local forum(s).
 - Letters from organizations
 - News articles
 - Photos
 - Scrapbook

- **SPECIAL NOTE TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED ABOUT THE NATIONAL EVENT. REFER TO THE NATIONAL CDE MANUAL IN REGARDS TO THE DOCUMENTAION OF LOCAL FORUMS AND LOCAL FORUMS THAT QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SCORING. THIS IS FOR NATIONALS ONLY. IT HAS NO REFLECTION ON THE STATE EVENT.**
- **Teams must have five completed forums BEFORE the state CDE in order to get the full points for this area.**

High quality forums are those presentation made to community groups that would have an interest in the issue. High quality forums can also be with smaller numbers of individuals who hold elected, appointed, or some other official position that will be making decisions on the issue

Examples of low quality forums would be dropping in at a local business and giving a presentation to the workers or going to the home of one of the parents to make a presentation. Low quality forums will receive zero or minimal points.

SCORING CRITERIA - SCORE CARD:

1. Introduction, Pro, Con and Conclusions (20 points each, 80 points total)
2. Overall presentation (participation of each member of the team, quality and power of the presentations, creativity, stage presence) (20 points)
3. Questions (25 points)
4. Portfolio: 10 pages maximum (Three parts, 25 points total)
 - Summary of the Issue, 2 pages maximum (5 points).
 - Bibliography (5 points).
 - Documentation of local forums (15 points). **Teams must have five completed forums BEFORE the state CDE in order to get the full points.**
 - Maximum of 10 points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum number of pages and/or not including cover page.
5. Judges ranking will be used to place teams.
6. Judges will not share their scores with any advisors, coaches or other judges. Once judging is complete they rank the teams in order of finish first through last. They will then combine their ranking of teams with the other judges to come up with the overall ranking in order of finish. Low score wins.
7. Judges' ranking will be used to place teams. Judges' questions will be used to break additional ties.

RESULT TABULATION

1. Individual judges will score manuscripts/portfolio with a raw score. If there are multiple judges, raw scores will be averaged and the raw score will be used to formulate seeding for preliminary rounds, and will be carried throughout the finals as well.
2. Presentation judges will judge each presentation/forum independently to formulate a raw score.
3. At the conclusion of the final presentation/forum, the contest coordinator will provide raw scores of manuscript/portfolio.
4. Judges will combine their score, with portfolio score to create their own total score, and personal ranking.
5. With the CDE coordinator create an overall rank, based on the combination of judges' rankings. Low score wins.

TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Teams' low ranks will be counted, and the team with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the team's response to questions. The team with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the team's raw scores will be totaled. The team with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

Agriculture Issues Forum

School _____ Issues Name _____

The portfolio should include the following. Limit to ten pages.

- A. A maximum of two pages of the Portfolio will include a summary of the issue, answering the questions that are most relevant to your topic:
3. List course(s) in which instruction occurred and total number of students receiving instruction.
 4. Why is this issue important now?
 5. What is the nature of the issue?
 6. Who is involved in the issue?
 7. How can the issue be defined?
 8. What is the historical background of the issue?
 9. What caused the issue?
 10. What are the risks?
 11. What are the benefits?
 12. Is there strong disagreement on how the issue should be solved?
- B. Bibliography of all resources and references cited which may include personal interviews and any other supporting material.
- C. Documentation that local forum(s) occurred such as:
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Portfolio Score Sheet

	Possible Points			Points Given
A. Summary of the Issues	5			
B. Bibliography	5			
C. Local Forums		Quality of Group (2)	Documentation of presentation and information (1)	Total Points for Each forum (3)
Forum #1	3			
Forum #2	3			
Forum #3	3			
Forum #4	3			
Forum #5	3			
Total Portfolio Score			25 Pts Possible	

* Deduction for exceeding the maximum number of pages. 10 points maximum.

Team Sub Total=

Deduction ()

TEAM SCORE:

Agriculture Issues Forum

School _____ Issues Name _____

Flight _____

Team Presentation

	Possible Points	Score
1. Introduction Statement on the issues and its importance	20	
2. Pro View Point	20	
3. Con View Point	20	
4. Summary Summarize the Pro's Summarize the Con's	20	
5. Overall Presentation	20	
6. Questions	25	
7. Portfolio (Scores will be give prior to the team presentation)	25	
Total	150	

Team Presentation Total: