



Congratulations!

All times EDT

Congratulations on serving as the Agricultural Issues team representative from your association! As you continue to prepare for the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, please note the helpful information we provide below to provide a smooth convention experience.

We encourage you to use the [CDE/LDE webpage](#) to stay current and locate the event materials. Please review the [General Orientation](#) for essential details, materials, deadlines and assistance. Be sure to read through the handbook and event information sections.

Competition Schedule

Remember to upload your Agricultural Issues Forum portfolio by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 2. [Upload instructions](#) are available in the Declaration/Certification How-To Guides on the [CDE LDE page](#). One rule change for 2025 was a requirement for an "Authenticity Statement." Please upload the required 'Authenticity Statement' as a separate PDF file, distinct from the portfolio. An example is below:

'We certify that all materials presented here are of my own creation and that any work adopted from other sources is duly cited and referenced as such.'

We will host a virtual team orientation on [Thursday, Oct. 23, at 1 p.m.](#) This will be recorded and posted on the CDE/LDE Page under event orientation. Preliminary rotation times will be released during this orientation. In fairness to other teams, we cannot accommodate requests for specific start times. Plan travel accordingly.

The event will be held at the Westin Indianapolis. Please refer to the attached schedule for the timing and plan your travel accordingly.

Event Details

Please note these 2024 event changes:

Page 7-8 — Once the team presentation begins, no non-team member can assist in the delivery. If a non-team member were to interject in assisting the team, the team would not advance to the next round.

Page 10 — Examples of low-quality forums would be quickly visiting a local business and giving a presentation to the workers, going to the home of one of the parents to deliver the information, presenting the forum at the chapter's FFA banquet, and presenting the forum to a class in the school. Low-quality forums will receive zero or minimal points.

The team should seek to provide numerous angles for documenting a high-quality forum. Examples of high-quality forum documentation with a variety of angles would be the display of photos, letters, narratives, timestamps, and attendance numbers/sheets.

Please note that the 2025 handbook updated the statement about respecting other cultures (page 8). Specifically, forums should not offend others' cultures.

The Agricultural Issues Forum "Preparation" link from the CDE/LDE page offers two great resources — Helpful Hints for Competition, Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials, and Presenters' Guide. These documents provide information that answers questions we tend to hear and may address an area you have yet to consider. One, for example, is our emphasis on respect for all cultures. It is vital that our students are educated with facts and not opinions. Many of our issues are sensitive, and within communities, they are culturally sensitive. Let us not fall victim to stereotypes and ideas; instead, support our message with facts that cultural groups support on both sides of the issue.

Dress

We are often asked whether it makes a difference if team members are in Official Dress or if they are in character or have a "performance." Thinking back to the teams that qualify for the final four, the style of presentation is less important than the students addressing a topic relevant to your community, understanding the various aspects of your issue, conducting and properly documenting numerous and high-quality local forums and being able to answer relevant questions at the close of their presentation. In other words, the substance is more important than the "flash." Focus on achieving the objectives in the Agricultural Issues Forum CDE handbook.

Recognition

All teams will be recognized at the Awards Program. Team participants, coaches, advisors, and family are welcome to attend with a convention badge. This ceremony will be streamed on FFA.org. Following the awards, the top four teams will compete.

The final four teams' placings will be presented on stage during the Fourth General Session at Lucas Oil Stadium.

October will be here soon, and we look forward to providing your students with an excellent educational experience. It truly 'takes a village' to prepare a team, and we wish you the best of luck in all preparations in these final few months. Safe travels to Indianapolis, and we will see you at the virtual orientation and then the following Wednesday, Oct. 29, at the Westin Hotel.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. See you in Indianapolis!

Sincerely,

*Stacy K. Vincent, Ph. D.
Event Superintendent, Agricultural Issues Forum
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AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT

2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

All times EDT. Schedule subject to change.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, Oct. 23	1 p.m.	Team Orientation	Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 29	Noon	Drop/Add Deadline for team members	Log into Profile to change in certification
	1 – 5 p.m.	Preliminary Presentations	Cabinet, Caucus, Chamber, Capitol I, Capitol II, Capitol III, Congress, Council (WI)
	4:30 p.m.	Advancement Announcement	Grand 1-3 (WI)
Thursday, Oct. 30	9 – 11 a.m.	Semi-Final Presentations	Capitol I, Capitol II, Capitol III, Council (WI)
	3 p.m.	Awards Program	500 Ballroom (ICC)
	4:30 p.m.	Final Presentations	500 Ballroom (ICC)
Friday, Oct. 31	8 a.m.	Final Placings- Fourth General Session	Lucas Oil Stadium

Location Guide

- **The Westin Indianapolis (WI):** 241 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204
- **Indiana Convention Center (ICC):** 100 S Capitol Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46225
- **Lucas Oil Stadium:** 500 S. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46225



CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

2025 GENERAL INFORMATION

Revised: April 18, 2025

Congratulations! We're excited to welcome you to the National FFA Career and Leadership Development Events (CDEs/LDEs) as part of the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo. Information for this year's events is on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#). Go to the webpage now to subscribe to email notifications when updates occur.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications will be sent to the email in the advisor's FFA.org profile. This email and the mobile number provided are the Advisor's Contact Information. Please add cde@ffa.org to your allowlist to receive important updates. You can also specify a second contact for additional communications. If the advisor's email changes after certification, update it in Certification or email cde@ffa.org with the state, event, and new advisor details.

EVENT HANDBOOKS

Each event will adhere to the rules and procedures outlined in its handbook. Any changes can be found in the Detailed Summary of CDE/LDE Handbook Updates. The current handbooks were posted on the webpage in Jan. 2025 and include all updated formats, lists, and rubrics. Participants should review the event components thoroughly before competing.

CERTIFICATION

All CDE and LDE teams must be certified by Tuesday, Sept. 2. You must certify all team members by the certification deadline. Most certifications may be amended prior to the competition dates. The [How to Certify a Team or Member \(PDF\)](#) contains step-by-step instructions.

TEAM MEMBER CHANGES

Team members can be added or removed from the certified list in Profile on FFA.org until one hour before the first event activity begins. The deadline will be noted in the Event Schedule.

EVENT UPLOADS

Four events—*Agricultural Issues, Employment Skills, Marketing Plan, and Prepared Public Speaking*—require document uploads, including an Authenticity Statement. Use these directions to [Upload a PDF for a CDE/LDE](#). See each event's superintendent letter for further details.

SCHEDULE CONFLICTS

Members may only participate in one CDE/LDE each year. Members participating in multiple award programs may have a scheduling conflict. We encourage students to choose a competitive event or interview over an awards ceremony. If the student or team cannot attend the main stage award presentation, we request a stand-in be sent for the specified session.

ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

Students needing accommodations or with allergies affecting event participation or provided snacks/meals must complete a [request form](#) at least 30 days in advance (by Sept. 15). This form will remain confidential, and National FFA staff will contact the advisor after receiving the request.

PRACTICE MATERIALS

Sample scan sheets, practicums, and written exams from previous years can be found under "Event Preparation" on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#).

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

All advisors and available team members should attend and review the virtual orientation meetings. Orientation recordings will be posted under "Event Orientation" on the CDE/LDE webpage. The orientation packet contains meeting details and a link to the meetings.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

[Convention registration](#) is required to compete in the Career and Leadership Development Events, which includes a waiver.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

We want to hear from you if you notice inappropriate behavior at an FFA event. You will be directed to a third party to file the report, but all reports will be sent to National FFA. If you [see something, say something](#).

INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS SHUTTLES

Courtesy shuttles between the Indiana Convention Center and the Indiana State Fairgrounds ([map](#)) are available for all registered CDE participants. Shuttles depart approximately every 15 minutes. Allow 20 minutes for one-way travel. Shuttles will run from 6 a.m. to the end of your event on Wednesday and Thursday. Check the convention website for details.

THANKING OUR PARTNERS

Our partners' financial commitment is vital to this program's continued success. Contact information is on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#), allowing you to express your appreciation for their support.

CDE/LDE FINALS — INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER

See the top CDE/LDE students compete in their finals. Live streaming is available on [FFA.org](#).

Event	Date	Time (EDT)	Room
Creed Speaking	Wed., Oct. 29	6 -6:30 p.m.	500 Ballroom
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Thurs., Oct. 30	9:30 -11 a.m.	500 Ballroom
Prepared Public Speaking	Thurs., Oct. 30	Noon-1:30 p.m.	500 Ballroom
Agricultural Issues Forum	Thurs., Oct. 30	4:30-6:30 p.m.	500 Ballroom
Conduct of Chapter Meetings	Fri., Oct. 31	9-11 a.m.	500 Ballroom
Marketing Plan	Fri., Oct. 31	9-11 a.m.	126-128
Parliamentary Procedure	Fri., Oct. 31	2-4 p.m.	500 Ballroom

AWARDS PROGRAMS AND MAIN STAGE RECOGNITION

CDE/LDE awards programs are open events (no tickets required) to recognize all participants and teams. Capture memorable moments! Selfie photo stations will be available for competitors at every event location and during the awards program.

Main stage recognition will announce the national winners, including the top four teams and the top ten individuals, as applicable.

Cash award recipients will receive information on how to claim their award. For more details, see the [Cash Awards Guidelines](#).

National CDE/LDE Advisor Checklist

- ☐ Read this document, General Orientation.
- ☐ Ensure cde@ffa.org is added to your safe sender list.
- ☐ Sign up for CDE/LDE updates on the CDE/LDE webpage: <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cde-lde/>.
- ☐ Note key dates for the release of schedules, event orientation packets and locate preparation materials.
- ☐ Review the current handbook.
- ☐ Review/update your profile on FFA.org with your current email address and mobile number.
- ☐ By August 8th – Download/print the Event Orientation packet at <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cde-lde/>.
- ☐ Sept. 2 – Deadline: Certify your students and upload applicable event documents on FFA.org.
- ☐ Sept. 15 – Deadline: Submit Reasonable Accommodations Requests, <https://form.jotform.com/adarequests/reasonable-ada-accommodations-reque>
- ☐ Sept-Oct. — Attend event orientation

Before leaving for the national event at the convention

- ☐ Confirm certified team members on FFA.org.