



FINAL RULING PROCESS FOR NATIONAL FINALIST AND WINNER SELECTION ISSUES

The National FFA will notify state staff before the Finalist Selection results are released online. The online results will not include Participant and DQ rankings.

All Programs

- Approved by state after posted deadline (unless prior approval is given by National FFA staff): Application will be ranked Participant.
- Altering of application form: Disqualification.
- Missing or blank scored application pages: Each missing portion receives a zero score for that application section.
- Providing an unauthorized signature in an application: Disqualification.
- Multiple photos (collage) on any single photo page: Zero score for that page.
- Finalists who arrive/log in after the posted start time for an interview or presentation will receive the time remaining only; no additional time will be allotted.
- Finalists who do not participate in the national winner selection interview/presentation will receive a zero score for that portion of the selection process. The application score will stand, and the applicant will still be recognized as a national finalist.
- Noncompliance with the Professional Integrity or the Use of Artificial Intelligence for National Event sections of the handbooks would represent plagiarism and automatically disqualify a member.
- The National FFA Organization may act in its discretion to address any attendee(s), group(s) or participant(s) it believes fail to uphold the criteria of the FFA Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct, including but not limited to revoking event access without refund or reduction of any fees paid or payable; removal from participation in awards and recognition programs; and revocation of awards and recognition earned.

Agriscience Fair

- Missing report components will receive a zero within that section(s).
- Wrong written report framework used: Application will be ranked Bronze.
- Multiyear data: If not marked as a project extension, the application will be ranked Participant.
- Project not related to agriculture: Application will be ranked Participant.

- No research conducted: Application will be ranked Participant.
- Repetition of previous experiment with no change in methodology/research question(s): Disqualification.
- Data added after state-level selection: Application will be ranked Participant.
- Unethical research conducted or rule violation: Disqualification.
- National top three finalist repeats in the same category and division: Disqualification.

American FFA Degree

- Application does not meet minimum requirements.
 - **Submission by March 15:** National staff will provide notes in the application review system specifying the issue. A resubmission deadline at least two weeks from the date of the notification will be provided. If a resubmission does not provide needed information or corrections by the provided deadline or the resubmission still does not meet the minimum requirement, the application will be denied.
 - **Submission between March 16 and May 15:** Revision and resubmission opportunities may be provided at the sole discretion of national staff. If an opportunity is offered, the resubmission deadline may be shorter than two weeks.
 - **Submission after May 15:** Application will be rejected.
 - Submission after the posted deadline: Application will not be accepted.

American Star Awards

- Minimum American FFA Degree requirements are not met: Will follow procedures for American FFA Degree.
- All discrepancies are noted for the judges only.
- Any current year records included: Application will not be ranked as Finalist.
- Application in the wrong Star category: Application will not be ranked as Finalist.

National Chapter Award Program

- Goals, Plans of Action, Outcomes and Advancing must be original content. If not, the application will not be ranked as a 3-Star Chapter.

Agricultural Proficiency Awards

- Current year records included in application section: Score that section zero.
- Records from less than two calendar years included in application: Application will be ranked Participant.
- Applied in wrong area or using wrong type of application: Application will be ranked Participant.

Definitions

Participant = Lowest rank but still a rank of achievement. Given when an application does not meet the minimum standards as outlined in handbooks and applications, has applied in the wrong area, is non-agricultural or scores below the level of Bronze-rated applications.

Disqualification = Application is entirely removed from the competition and will not be recognized or rewarded in any way due to an attempt to gain unfair advantage.