



Congratulations!

All times EDT.

Congratulations on qualifying for the 2025 National FFA Agronomy Career Development Event.

Keep up with the most current information on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#). 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

A team orientation will be held on [Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m. EDT](#). The certified advisor will receive a Zoom invite. This will be recorded and posted under event orientation on the CDE/LDE webpage. Before orientation, email questions to me at jbultemeier@algreatlakes.com to ensure they are addressed and included in the recording.

The event will be held in the Ag/Hort Pavilion at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. For timing, refer to the attached schedule. Plan travel accordingly.

Event Details

The event uses four categories adopted from the performance objectives of the International Certified Crop Advisor (ICCA) exam: Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Crop Management, and Soil and Water Quality. The ICCA Performance Objectives may be accessed at <https://www.certifiedcropadvisor.org/files/certifiedcropadvisor/international-performance-objectives.pdf>.

The event components will include:

- Team activity new format
- Identification—weed/crop plants and seeds
- Soils
- Pest management—Insect identification
- Disease and disorders
- Written exam

The scan sheet has been updated and can be accessed on the CDE/LDE webpage along with other event orientation documents.

Team Event

The team activity this year will focus on one of four crop options (Canola, Grain Corn, Soybeans, or Sugar Beets) from the Northern region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, or Wisconsin). Review the Agronomy handbook for important information on the format for the team problem, pages 7-9, the [2024 Example Team Event Example](#) or the [2024 Official Team Event](#).

The team event format is designed to simulate an infield diagnostic visit and will be in the same format as the 2024 Example and Official Team Event. As a team of professional agronomists, each with their specialty, you have been asked to visit the field to determine the problem, the cause and possible management options.

In real-world agronomic diagnostic situations, information gathered about the situation must be evaluated to determine if that information impacted the issue at hand. Each category will have an information packet: Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Soil and Water Management, and Crop Management. In the packet will be reference information pertinent to that category. A segment on the question sheet is associated with each category to evaluate if the information has or will impact the issue. The questions are multiple-choice. It is advised that the students split up the information evaluation between the 4 team members. Once the category questions are completed and the information evaluated, there will be another set of overall management questions for the students to answer as a team.

This work will prepare you for sharing your findings with the producer. The team will interact directly with one judge but will be scored by multiple judges. Remember that this is not a presentation but a conversation with the producer. The team needs to define the cause of the issue, support their findings and provide management solutions. The producer will have questions.

Team Event References to Aid in Preparation

- Specific crop guides
 - Canola – North Dakota State University Canola Production Field Guide - <https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/publications/canola-production-field-guide>
 - Grain Corn / Soybeans
 - Illinois Agronomy Handbook - <https://extension.illinois.edu/crops/agronomy-handbook>
 - Ohio Agronomy Guide - https://stepupsoy.osu.edu/sites/hcs-soy/files/472%20Ohio%20Agronomy%20Guide%2015%20Ed%20red_0.pdf
 - Sugar beets – University of Nebraska <https://core.ac.uk/reader/188128060>

Other changes:

- Please note a change in the Agronomic Disorder Definitions to clarify two definitions
 - Chemical - Damage caused when a plant comes in contact with a natural or manufactured pesticide product
 - Nutritional - Symptoms caused by deficiency or toxicity of a plant nutrient or the application of a natural or manufactured fertilizer or nutrient.

Electronic Devices

Smartwatches and cell phones can't be in the student's possession during any portion of the event. Coaches need to collect these articles from the students before starting the event. Students should have their coach's phone number during the in-person event. If a student needs to reach their coach, a phone will be provided.

Teams will **not** need to provide their computer or electronic devices.

Food and Beverage

Based on our schedule, we will be hosting a student box lunch. Please ensure any allergies have been communicated via the [accommodations request](#).

Dress

We recommend that students wear Official Dress.

Recognition

All teams and individuals will be recognized at the Awards Program held in the Indiana Convention Center. Participants, coaches, advisors, and family are welcome to attend with a convention badge. This ceremony will be streamed on FFA.org.

Final placings for the top four teams and top 10 individuals will be presented on stage during the Second General Session in Lucas Oil Stadium.

Feel free to contact me with any questions that you have. I look forward to a great event.

Sincerely,

*Jamie Bultemeier, CCA, CPAg, 4R NMS
Event Superintendent, Agronomy
jbultemeier@algreatlakes.com
260-442-4614*



AGRONOMY CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

All times EDT. Schedule subject to change.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday, Oct. 8	1 p.m.	Team Orientation	Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 29	7 a.m.	Drop/Add Deadline for team members	Log into Profile to change in certification
	8 a.m.	Team Check In	Agriculture Horticulture Building (ISF)
	9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Identification, Pest Management, Disease & Disorders, Team Activity & Written Exam, Soil practicum	Agriculture Horticulture Building (ISF)
		Student lunch provided	Agriculture Horticulture Building (ISF)
Thursday, Oct. 30	9 a.m.	Awards Program	Rooms 120-122 (ICC)
	2 p.m.	Final Placings- Second General Session	Lucas Oil Stadium

Location Guide

- **Indiana State Fairgrounds (ISF):** 1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, IN 46205
- **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-req>
 - ☐ Sept-Oct. — Attend event orientation
- Before leaving for the national event at the convention**
- ☐ Confirm certified team members on FFA.org.