



Congratulations!

Rev. August 1, 2025
All times EDT

On behalf of the National FFA Food Science and Technology CDE Committee, I congratulate you and your team members on your selection to represent your state at this year's national event, the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo. The committee is looking forward to seeing you in Indianapolis.

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

We will host a virtual team orientation on [Thurs. Sept. 25, at 3 p.m. EDT](#). A Zoom invite will be emailed to the certified advisor. This will be recorded and posted on the CDE/LDE Page under event orientation. Before orientation, email questions to me at ray.pieniazek@gmail.com to ensure they are addressed and included in the recording.

The event will take place at the Blue-Ribbon Pavilion located on the Indiana State Fairgrounds. All teams are required to check in at the south foyer of the Blue-Ribbon Pavilion 30 minutes before their assigned start time. Each rotation will last for 5.5 hours. To maintain fairness among all teams, we cannot accommodate requests for specific start times, so please plan your travel accordingly. A rotation schedule will be posted prior to the virtual orientation.

An event review will be hosted before the Awards program on Thursday.

Event Details

The team Safety and Sanitation report has been reconfigured to a "Food Safety Audit report." This change removes the categories and focuses on reporting observations. An example of the 2024 Food Safety Audit team activity can be found under "Event Preparation" on the CDE/LDE webpage. The 2024 Food Safety Audit photos are available in the Past Tests/Practicums. Teamwork will only be assessed during the team product development activity.

Product development will be based on the following:

Category: Beverage

Platform: Convenience

Market: Retail

Note: Food products at this event may contain potential allergens. We can accommodate the nine recognized allergens (milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soybeans, and sesame) and food intolerances upon request, but only if made by Mon. Sept. 15. Late requests will be reviewed; however, National FFA makes no guarantee that we can secure and provide the requested accommodation.

Participants needing ADA accommodations should complete the online [Request for Accommodation Form](#) by Mon. Sept. 15. All requests are confidential, and a National FFA staff member will contact participants for further information. For questions about ADA accommodations, please email ADARequests@ffa.org.

Equipment

All necessary tools and equipment, including pencils, clipboards, paper and calculators, will be provided for the event. Students will not be allowed to use their own during the event.

Food and Beverage

We will provide a student snack based on our schedule. Please ensure any allergies have been communicated via the accommodations request.

Dress

Students should be dressed in Official Dress. Students will be allowed to bring cell phones to the event, but they must be turned in at the beginning of the event.

Recognition

All teams and individuals will be recognized at the Awards Program, which will be held at the Indiana Convention Center. Team participants, coaches, advisors, and family with convention badges are welcome to attend. The ceremony will be streamed on FFA.org.

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

As always, we want to ensure you have as much information as possible to best prepare your team. Check out the [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) under event orientation on the CDE/LDE webpage.

Please contact me if you have questions or need assistance understanding the contest's rules or procedures. We wish you safe travels to the event and hope you are prepared for a challenging national contest.

Sincerely,

*Ray Pieniazek
Event Superintendent, Food Science and Technology
210-317-9293 – ray.pieniazek@gmail.com*



FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

All times EDT. Schedule subject to change.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, Sept. 25	3 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. – 5:30 p.m.	Students compete –rotation to be assigned	Blue Ribbon Pavilion (ISF)
		Student snack provided	
Thursday, Oct. 30	8 a.m.	Event Review	Wabash Ballroom 1-2 (ICC)
	9 a.m.	Awards Program	Wabash Ballroom 1-2 (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-reque>
 - ☐ Sept-Oct. — Attend event orientation
- Before leaving for the national event at the convention**
- ☐ Confirm certified team members on FFA.org.