

Virginia FFA Guide



Virginia FFA does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation.

The Virginia FFA Association is a resource and support organization that does not select, control, or supervise local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the state FFA constitution, bylaws, or policies.

AVIAN BOWL

Philosophy for Virginia FFA Career Development Events

Students are important customers of agricultural education and the FFA who recognize quality and value in products and activities. When provided an opportunity to fashion their educational experiences, they generally make wise decisions based on needs, perceptions, image and the opinions of others influence students. They value change based on their perceived personal needs as well as the needs of others. They sometimes value change for the sake of variety. Adults are concerned about the experiences of students and want to help organize experiences that will meet the future needs of students while accomplishing the purposes of agricultural education and the FFA organization. The Virginia FFA Association should assume the leadership role in developing and continuously improving relevant FFA career development events and awards. Although the Virginia FFA Association should be aware of the needs of local chapters and should react to those needs, it should help initiate opportunities that reflect relevant and emerging technology.

Virginia FFA career development events and awards should be developed with significant input from FFA members, teachers, partners, respective industry sponsors, and others involved in agricultural education. Virginia career development events and awards should reflect instruction that currently takes place in the entire agricultural education program, including classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, individualized instruction, and/or supervised agricultural experience. However, it is appropriate for the state organization to develop career development events and awards that stimulate instruction in emerging areas that reflect both current and future community, national, and global work force needs. The authority for insuring the relevance of an FFA activity is ultimately vested in the Virginia FFA Advisory Council.

The state association should promote individual, chapter, and team career development events and awards. Chapter and team career development events and awards should be based on cooperation and teamwork while recognizing the value of competition and individual achievement. The role of career development events and awards is to motivate students and encourage leadership, personal growth, citizenship, and career development.

Students should be recognized for achievement in career development events and awards. Quality standards should be used as a basis for achievement. The state association should ensure that the recognition is appropriate and meaningful. Recognition for achievement should be reflective of the total effort required by the chapter/team/individual and should take place at all levels of participation.

The Virginia FFA Association shall encourage accessibility and provide opportunities for achievement and recognition for students with diverse backgrounds. High expectations should be consistently communicated to those who are involved in career development events and awards.

GENERAL RULES and OFFICIAL POLICIES

Violations of any of the following rules may be grounds for the event superintendent to disqualify the participants.

State FFA Staff and CDE Superintendents will use the published rules and procedures to organize and implement the State FFA Career Development Events. Event activities may not be conducted due to lack of necessary materials, expertise or extreme impact to event budgets.

TEAM ACTIVITIES

The primary goal of team career development events and awards is to develop individual responsibilities, foster teamwork, and promote communications while recognizing the value of ethical competition and the value of individual achievement. A team career development event/award requires two or more members from one chapter working cooperatively. Team career development events and awards are intended to be an outgrowth of instruction.

Team career development events and awards should:

- include problem solving and critical thinking.
- promote an appreciation for diversity by reducing barriers to participation.
- promote new directions and focus on future needs of members and society.
- include cooperative activities.
- encourage broad participation among members and recognize excellence within levels of experience.
- recognize individual and team achievement, develop general leadership, and recognize levels of ability.
- provide local recognition for superior performance at the state and national level.

ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

- 1) Each participant must be a current bona fide dues paying FFA member in good standing with the local chapter, state FFA association, and the National FFA Organization at the time of the career development event (or by May 1 for the Virginia FFA, whichever date comes first.) In the event a participant's name is not on the chapter's official roster for the years in which the dues were payable to the National FFA Organization, a past due membership processing fee of \$35, in addition to the dues must be paid.
- 2) The participant, in a State Senior Career Development Event, must be:
 - a. A high school FFA member, (a graduating senior is considered eligible to compete in state career development events the convention directly after graduation.)
(High school refers to grades 9-12.)
 - b. A middle school team consisting of all 8th grade FFA members.
 - c. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career. For this purpose a student needs to be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the year they qualified for the event. If the student was previously enrolled in an agriculture class and was an FFA member, they may compete in a contest if they have scheduling issues (ex. Advanced Placement classes) that do not allow them be enrolled in an agriculture class but they must still have an SAE.
- 3) The participant in a State Junior Career Development Event must be:
 - a. at the time of the state competition has qualified as either a 7th, 8th or 9th grade member.
 - b. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career. For this purpose a student needs to be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the year they qualified for the event.
- 4) The participant in a State Middle School Career Development Event must be:
 - a. At the time of the state competition has qualified as either a 6th, 7th or 8th grade member.
 - b. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career. For this purpose a student needs to be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the year they qualified for the event.

- 5) To compete in the creed speaking event, the member has qualified as either a 7th, 8th or 9th grader by state convention.
- 6) CDE participants who start an event and do not complete the event without notifying event officials at the time of departure will be disqualified. This can affect the overall team rank and position. In some events this will also disqualify the entire team
- 7) The state supervisor/executive secretary of agricultural education must certify that participants are eligible. If an ineligible student is entered in any career development event, the entire team of which that student is a member may be declared ineligible.
- 8) The first contest that a school wins in the current year will be the contest that the individuals on that team will represent Virginia at the National FFA Convention. To explain, if an FFA chapter puts more than one current winner of an FFA contest on an additional team, then the second place team will be declared the State Winner and will compete at the National FFA Convention. If one person is a duplicate and the National rules allow for a three-person team, then the first place team will represent Virginia. If a student that wins a contest is declared ineligible, or cannot attend the Convention, then the other members of the team will be allowed to compete for individual awards only. (A medical waiver may be granted if a member of a winning team is unable to attend due to a medical condition.)
- 9) Individuals who have been state winners or have represented the state in any official national FFA career development event are not eligible to enter the same FFA event again. However, FFA junior division state winners are eligible for state senior division. Individuals on a state winning team cannot compete in that division again.
- 10) A chapter may enter any number of career development events; however, a chapter may have no more than one team in each division in each event.

CHECK-IN

Participants will check-in at the state FFA convention as indicated in the annual State Guidelines. Dates, hours and place of check-in will be sent annually to the agricultural education teacher. All participants will be given an identification number by which they will be designated throughout the event.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

- 1) **Emergency Conditions:** Under emergency conditions, a state team participating in a Virginia FFA Career Development Event may be made up of less than the required members. Fewer than the required number could compete if an emergency condition such as illness, death in the family or an act of God would occur. Those individuals competing would still be eligible to qualify for individual awards.
- 2) Event committees will strive to divide teams into groups so that no two participants from a team will be in the same group. In any case, no two members will be placed side-by-side.
- 3) **Disqualification:**
 - a. Any communication, verbal or non-verbal between participants during a career development event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team member involved from the career development event. The only exception to this would be communication between team members during the team activity portion of a given career development event.
 - b. Teams arriving after the career development event has begun may be disqualified or penalized. No member substitutions may be made after the career development event begins.
 - c. Any assistance given to a team member from any source other than the career development event officials or assistants will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team from the career development event.
 - d. Event superintendents may stop any participant if they deem their manner to be hazardous either to themselves or others. Such stoppage shall deem the individuals disqualified for that section of the career development event.
 - e. CDE participants who start an event and do not complete the event without notifying event officials at the time of departure will be disqualified. This can affect the overall team rank and position. In some events this will also disqualify the entire team.
 - f. Participants will not be allowed to utilize personal electronic communication devices, other than those approved by the event officials, during the entire course of the event. Participants who access personal electronic communication devices without prior approval of the event officials will be disqualified.

- 4) Advisors
 - a. Advisors are not allowed to be in contact with their students at any point or time during the competition.
 - b. Advisors may only be allowed at the contest site if they are assigned to supervise a group or part of the contest
- 5) Participants are expected to observe the National FFA Code of Ethics and the Proper Use of the FFA Jacket during the career development events. (Please see the latest edition of the Official FFA Manual.)
- 6) Official FFA dress is highly recommended for all participants where appropriate and is required for the awards presentation and recognition.
- 7) Participants or advisors will not be allowed in the career development event area as designated in the specific career development event rules. Infractions of this statement may result in team disqualification.
- 8) Accessibility for all students—all special needs requests should be submitted two weeks prior to the event for scheduling of assistance during event.
- 9) Results of all Virginia State FFA Career Development Events will be announced during sessions at State Convention.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

The ranking of teams and individuals in each of the career development events will be on the basis of three logical groups within the total range of scores. Awards will be distributed to the winning teams and individuals at award programs following the completion of the career development events.

VIRGINIA FFA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Purpose: To advise the State Staff on issues impacting both FFA Career Development Events and Awards to ensure:

- 1) All activities are consistent with industry needs.
- 2) All activities are available to all members.
- 3) All activities are conducted openly, fairly and in a quality manner.
- 4) Cooperation among various activities occurs, to the degree possible, to promote the interconnectedness of agriculture (i.e. forestry and agricultural mechanics or farm business management and dairy or livestock) and agricultural education (classroom, SAE, FFA).
- 5) New and innovative activities are being put forward for consideration.
- 6) As many students as possible have the opportunity to participate.
- 7) A constant process of local advisor in-service on proper use of these activities as tools for learning is being championed.
- 8) All activities are operated consistently with Advisory Council policy.
- 9) Activities are conducted within available budgets approved by the FFA Advisory Council and, if appropriate, Virginia FFA Foundation Board.

The Virginia FFA Advisory Council is a committee made up of sixteen members from all across the Commonwealth that meet bi-yearly. Along with sending their advice on important issues to the National FFA Board of Directors, the Council also discusses the past year's events, how to advance their association in the future, and address the suggestions and concerns brought up by agricultural teachers and other leaders of agriculture.

Membership of the Advisory Council

- 1) Ten members of the Virginia FFA Advisory Council are selected by the areas.
- 2) One member, who is agricultural education middle school advisor.
- 3) One member, who is a representative from Virginia Tech.
- 4) One member, who is a representative of Virginia State.
- 5) One member, who is the State FFA Advisor.

- 6) One member, who is a representative of FFA members, selected when elected State FFA President.
- 7) One member, who is the State FFA Specialist (State FFA Executive Secretary.)

Term

Members serve a three-year term except for the one FFA member representative who will serve a one-year term.

Chair

The chair of the advisory committee on awards and career development events will be elected each year.

Meeting Schedule

- 1) Annual fall meeting to report on the completion of activities at convention and provide input into the winter meeting agenda.
- 2) The annual spring meeting will allow for most of the committee's work to be conducted as a whole group and in sub-groups focused on specific issues or specific types of activities (e.g. team career development events, individual awards, chapter awards).

Local advisors should submit concerns suggestions to the state FFA Specialist/chair of the advisory board and their area representative at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Rules Committee on State Career Development Events

The advisory committee will meet only when needed and will make all final decisions on interpretation of the rules and regulations of the State FFA Career Development Events or awards programs.

Official judges' decisions are final. The announced results are the official results and awards may be duplicated as a result of the appeal.

Conflict of Interest

If there is a violation of a student whose advisor is a member of the advisory board, the advisor may not vote on the violation. A teacher from that area maybe used to fill in for the advisor whose student has possible committed the violation.

AVIAN BOWL

PURPOSE

1. To encourage youth to expand their knowledge of avian facts, and become proficient in poultry management, and related subjects.
2. To serve as an award activity to thus stimulate their learning processes, interest, and enthusiasm.
3. To help youth with career guidance, and to promote the poultry industry, by stimulating their interest in poultry and other avian species.
4. To make learning fun.

RULES

1. A team consists of not less than three (3) and not more than four (4) members.
2. There will be a 25 question written quiz given preceding the Quiz Bowl Contest. The scores for the top three individuals will be added and averaged to give a team score.
3. Questions will be prepared from the **Poultry Science Manual for National FFA Career Development Events**. Sale price and ordering information is available from Instructional Materials Service, Texas A & M University, 2588 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-2588. \$17.00 per copy.
4. Questions will be: fill-in-the-blank (short answer), multiple choice, and spelling.
5. All team members must be enrolled in FFA to participate.
6. The audience is required at all times to refrain from providing answers to any team member. Disciplinary action for violations will be at the discretion of the Quiz Bowl Contest judges.
7. In the event an odd number of teams register, a "bye" will be awarded, as necessary, in order to allow all teams to participate.

OFFICIALS

Moderator - Assumes complete direction of the contest, asks all questions, and designates contestants to answer questions, acts as the referee judge. Is at all time IN CHARGE. Will also rule on the acceptability of any answer. This can be done by a separate referee judge if desired.

Time Keeper - Records total elapsed time for each contest and indicates to the moderator the expiration of total time or the expiration of the time allowed in which to answer questions.

Score Keepers - Two individuals shall keep scores on each contest. One score should be kept so that all points awarded or taken away in penalties may be checked. The second score is kept to maintain scores visible to the moderator, the contestants, and, in so far as possible, the viewing audience.

Questions

1. The degree of difficulty and choice of questions will depend upon the contestants' level of knowledge.
2. Questions may be in the form of written words.
3. Number of Questions: Each set of teams within a round will have the same number of questions. Bonus questions will have the same point value in each game within a round.
4. Types of Questions: There are three types of questions:
 - a. Regular Questions.
 - b. Bonus Questions. A bonus question is usually a question requiring a several-part answer or a difficult answer. See point system summary for point values. Bonus questions **WILL NOT** be passed on to the other team in the event of an incorrect answer. When a team member answers a regular question correctly, a colored card in front of that team member will be turned over by the moderator. Once all members on a team have their cards turned over, that team is entitled to a bonus question. There will only be one bonus question per team per game.
 - c. Tie-breaker Questions. A tie-breaker question is used to replace a question thrown out by the judges. It is also used for the extra questions needed to break a tie between teams.
5. Tied Games. In the event that two teams have a tied score in games involving placings, the tie will be broken by asking an additional five (5) questions.

Point System

Correct Answer 5

Acknowledgement Penalty -5

Bonus Question 10

Reference Material

Competing teams should know well in advance the specific sources from which questions are taken. Questions will be taken from the Poultry Science Manual for National FFA Career Development Events, Texas A & M University. Study sections are the 2005 selected sections in the Poultry Science Manual

Mechanics of Play

1. Format

A double elimination tournament style format will be followed. Any team which loses two games will be eliminated from the contest. The contest will continue until only one team remains with less than two losses.

2. Pairings, Byes, Order of Play and Placings

- a. The average team score for the written test (lowest score will still be dropped) will be used to determine the seedings for the contest.
- b. In the case of two average team written test scores being identical, the seeding will be determined by a coin toss.
- c. The contest will be a class double elimination contest and will run as such by an individual versed in contest organization.

3. The written scores will not be added in again at the end of the oral competition.

4. The moderator will ask a question. The first person whose light flashes must start to answer the question within five (5) seconds after being acknowledged, or LOSE five (5) points.

- a. Any member answering a question without being acknowledged will LOSE five (5) points.
- b. It will be the responsibility of the judges to determine that an answer was started within the five (5) seconds allowed. It should be noted that repeating the question does not constitute the initiation of an answer.
- c. If the question has been completely read, the moderator will not repeat the question, but the other team will have the opportunity to ring in within five (5) seconds.
- d. Timing will begin when the question is complete and when a signal is activated.

5. When a signal is activated before the question is completely read, the moderator shall stop reading the question, then the contestant has five (5) seconds to start the answer based on that portion of the question.

- a. If the answer is correct, the team will receive five (5) points.
- b. If the question was interrupted, the judge may NOT ask the contestant to be more specific, expand, or explain in any way their answer.
- c. If an interrupted question is answered incorrectly--the question shall then be completely reread and the other team will have the opportunity to answer it.

6. If neither team can offer an answer to the question within 10 seconds, the moderator will give the answer and the question will be dropped.

7. The **ONLY** discussion allowed between team members will be on **BONUS** questions. The answers **MUST** come from the team captain.
 - a. Only the number of answers required by the bonus question will be accepted. Example: If the bonus has a four part answer--the first four answers given by the team captain will be accepted.
 - b. On a bonus question the team may have ten (10) seconds to consult. Time will be called at the end of ten (10) seconds--the captain must start the answer within five (5) seconds.
 - c. Once the captain starts the answers, he/she will have thirty (30) seconds to complete the answers required.

Decisions and Interpretations

Answers and interpretations of questions will be the sole responsibility and final recall of the moderator or judge (if used). All decision of the moderator and/or judge, scorekeepers, and referee-timers are **FINAL**.

1. A team member will have the privilege to ask the judge to verify an answer that he/she feels is correct.
2. If a coach challenges the judge's decision--the coach must call "time-out" immediately (before the next question is read). A decision made by the judge after the answer is verified, will be **FINAL**.
3. Only answers contained in the Avian Bowl Manual will be acceptable to the Judge.