

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.

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 primary goal of career development events is to develop individual responsibilities, foster teamwork and promote communication and individual achievement.

The activities in each career development event:

- Include problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork skills, where appropriate.
- Encourage appreciation for diversity by reducing barriers to participation among members.
- Develop general leadership and recognize individual and team achievement.
- Promote concentrated focus on future needs of members and society.

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.

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content

Agriculture is a highly technical and ever-changing industry upon which everyone is dependent. In order to maintain agriculture as the nation's number one industry, it is crucial to understand the importance of agrisciences, marketing strategies, safe food production and continuous research. Strong, relevant Agriscience programs are on way to maintain the nation's agricultural edge.

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 event must be a 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th grade full dues paying 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 middle school 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. **If the contest allows a Junior and Senior Team then only the Senior Team is eligible to advance to the National Level. If the event is a joint FFA & 4-H contest, then a school must declare an official team but will be allowed to enter the number of teams permitted by 4-H.**

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.
 - g. No participant shall gain access to real materials that will be utilized by the event committee during the competition. Any team, participant, advisor or coach reported and proven to do so will be disqualified from the national event.
- 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 a 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) Written Document Penalties- a penalty of 10% of the total points allotted will be assessed for the written documents received after the postmarked deadline. If the document is still not received seven days after the postmark deadline, the team/individual may be subject to disqualification.
 1. National staff will mark late entries as such.
 2. Event officials will be notified of late entries at the time written documents are provided for judging.
 3. Event superintendent will ensure that penalty is applied.
 - 10) 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 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 State FFA Advisory Council shall consist of two instructors of agricultural education from each FFA area in the state, two at-large agricultural education members, past State FFA President, and current President of the Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators; appointed annually by the state advisor. The duties of this council shall be to represent the FFA chapters and advisors in the areas on matters pertaining to the conduct of the entire program; to arbitrate conflicts at the area, federation and chapter level; to review State FFA Degree applications, Star FFA Degree Applications, Proficiency Award Applications, and National Chapter Award applications and make recommendations to the state advisor; to recommend changes, revisions and/or new rules and regulations to the State FFA Board of Directors and the state advisor; and to serve in any capacity in which it may be called upon by the state advisor.

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

State Board of Directors

Section A.

Governing Body

1. The governing body of the organization shall be the State Board of Directors, which shall consist of: the state FFA advisor, who shall serve as chairperson; one agricultural education instructor from each of the state FFA areas; one representative from the State FFA Advisory Council, one representative of the State FFA Foundation; and one representative of the State FFA Alumni Association. The state FFA executive secretary shall serve as ex-officio member of the State FFA Board of Directors.

2. The terms of office of members, other than the ex-officio member, shall be prescribed in the bylaws.

3. The State FFA Board of Directors shall meet at least once each year at such time and place as may be prescribed by the board and shall present an annual report.

4. The duties of the State FFA Board of Directors shall include: interpret rules governing the activities of the state association, including the State FFA Convention; to have full power to prescribe new regulations that the board finds necessary in connection with the operation of the organization, including the State Convention; to interpret rules and regulations applicable to the convention; and to review recommendations from the State FFA Advisory Council and State FFA Executive Committee and take any action deemed appropriate.

Section B.

Governing Committee

The chairperson and two members of the State FFA Board of Directors shall be designated by the board to serve as the Governing Committee and shall have the power to deal with items of business of the state organization. All official actions of the Governing Committee shall be reported to the State FFA Board of Directors.

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.

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.



State FFA Horse Hippology

Hippology, directly derived, means "the study of horses."

I. Purpose

The purpose of the State FFA Horse Hippology Career Development Event is to:

- Stimulate the study of and interest in equine science selection, management and production through the agricultural education curriculum.
- Provide recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies as a result of instruction in equine science.

II. Objectives

- To instill leadership and motivate learning in the classroom, while developing student skills in cooperative learning, observation, analysis and communication.
- To develop and exercise competitive spirit in a team atmosphere.
- To promote career choices by providing an opportunity for contestants to become acquainted with professionals within the industry.
- To advance knowledge in selection and management of horses.
- To develop proficiency in communicating effectively in the terminology of the industry.
- To provide the opportunity to evaluate, make a decision and justify those decisions on conformation traits and performance of horses.

III. Event Rules:

Each state may enter two 4-H teams, two FFA teams, and one Breed Association team (per breed) consisting of at least three members but not more than four. If four contestants are designated, all will participate and the lowest scoring individual overall will be automatically designated as alternate. The alternate's scores will not be included in team scores, but alternates will be eligible for individual awards.

IV. Event Format:

The contest will consist of four phases:

A. Horse Judging: (200 Points)

This phase of the contest will consist of placing classes shown on video. 2 halter classes and 2 performance classes will be presented.

B. Examination: (100 Points)

- A Written Exam (50 Points)
- Projected Slides (25 Points) Identify as to breed, health conditions, conformation faults, color, color patterns, activity and proper appointments.
- Anatomy (25 Points) May include external, skeletal, internal organs, digestive and reproductive organs, and detailed anatomy of the hoof and lower limbs.

C. Station Phase (100 Points)

A series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the station's requirements. Can include identification of:

- Various types and parts of saddles
- Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes, and parts of horse shoes
- Farrier tools and equipment
- Miscellaneous tools and equipment
- Grains and forages
- Internal and external parasites
- Blemishes and unsoundnesses
- Equine aging by teeth
- Breeds, colors, and markings
- Assessing aspects of horse health including:
 - Pulse rate
 - Respiration rates
 - Temperature
 - Dehydration
 - Anemia
- Measurements such as:
 - Withers heights
 - Shoe size
 - Girth
 - Collar size
 - Gullet width
 - Saddle fit

D. Team Effort Problem (100 points, two problems -counts toward team score only)

Team members will work together to solve problems using their practical knowledge of horses. Problems may involve assembling equipment, an oral presentation, and/or demonstration.

Examples of the possible team problems might include:

- Balancing a horse's ration
- Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e. boarding, breeding, training, nursery, layout, etc.
- Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
- Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific purposes
- Behavior problems - causes, management of and corrections
- Training and conditioning programs - equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance
- Breeding and/or leasing contracts - specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transportation, etc.
- Teaching lessons in horse management (specific subject to be announced) to a group of 9-11 year old beginner members.
- Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment.
- Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment

Team problem scores will not be included in determining the rank of individuals in the contest, but will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standing.

A score of 50 points per problem (maximum) will be awarded based on: accuracy, organization, presentation, and team participation.

V. Scoring

The event is organized into the following parts and point values:

- Horse Judging (200 Points Total)
 - Two Halter Classes (50 points each)
 - Two Performance Classes (50 Points Each)
- Examination (100 Points Total)
 - Written Exam (50 Points)
 - Slides (25 Points)
 - Anatomy (25 Points)
- Station Phase (100 Points)
- Team Effort Problems
 - Two Problems (50 Points Each)

VI. Tie Breakers

The following criteria will be used to break ties, should they occur:

For Individuals:

1. Highest written phase
2. Highest station phase
3. Highest judging phase

For Teams:

The highest average score in the above order

VII. All American Quarter Horse Congress Youth Hippology Contest

General Rules:

- Each state may enter two 4-H teams, two FFA teams, and one Breed Association team (per breed) consisting of at least three members but not more than four. If four contestants are designated, all will participate and the lowest scoring individual overall will be automatically designated as alternate. The alternate's scores will not be included in team scores, but alternates will be eligible for individual awards.
- Teams may be selected by any means appropriate to the state they represent and must be certified as eligible by the State 4-H or FFA Leader, Extension Horse Specialist, or Breed Association Representative.
- Contestants must be at least 14 years of age, but not yet achieved their 19th birthday on January 1st of the current year.
- All contestants must have been enrolled in 4-H, FFA, or a youth breed association program during the current year.
- Contestants may not have participated in an official, post-secondary Hippology, Horse Bowl, or Horse Judging contest, nor have been in training in preparation for one of these contests.
- Contestants may also participate in either a Horse Speaking event or Horse Bowl event at the Congress Youth Horse Event in the same year. Contestants are eligible to compete in this contest in subsequent years as long as they were not the high individual overall or on the high team overall.
- **Entry Deadline: Sept 15th of current year.** Entry must be made on the form provided, signed by your State 4-H or FFA Leader, State Extension Horse Specialist, or Breed Association Representative, and accompanied by a check payable to Ohio Quarter Horse Association in the amount listed on the entry form. No Entries will be accepted after October 1st of the current year.
- All ties, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence: 1) Written exam scores, 2) Station scores, and 3) Judging scores.

VIII. References

All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications:

NEWHOR

Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms, New Horizons Education Center, Inc.
Alpine Publications, PO Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537
Phone: 800-777-7257 Fax: 970-667-9157

EVANS 2nd

The Horse (2nd Edition) by Evans, Borton, Hintz, Van Vleck
W.H. Freeman & Company
660 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94104
A special price may be available if ordered from publisher.
Phone: 414-391-5870
VHPS Holtzbrink Publishers, 16365 James Madison Hwy, Gordonsville, VA 22942. 888-330-8477

KAINER

The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy
Dr. Robert Kainer and Dr. Thomas McCracken
Alpine Publications, PO Box 7027 Loveland, CO 80537
Phone: 800-777-7257 Fax: 970-667-9157

AYHC 1st

Horse Industry Handbook – by the American Youth Horse Council
The Equine Collection – Dept. AYHC, PO Box 1539 Fort Lee, NJ 07024-1539
Phone: 800-952-5813 Fax: 201-840-7242

AYHC

Youth Leaders Manual – by the American Youth Horse Council
The Equine Collection – Dept. AYHC, PO Box 1539 Fort Lee, NJ 07024-1539
Phone: 800-952-5813 Fax: 201-840-7242

LEWIS 2nd

Feeding and Care of the Horse (2nd Edition)
Lon D. Lewis, Williams and Wilkins
PO Box 1496, Baltimore MD 21298-9724
Phone: 800-638-0672

GRIFFITHS

Equine Science: Basic Knowledge for Horse People of All Ages
Jean T. Griffiths
www.HorseBooksEtc.com Phone: 800-952-5813
ISBN# 978-1-92916404204 to order from your local bookstore

Schneider Saddlery – Apparel, tack and horse care items, for the English and Western rider. To request a free catalog please visit <http://www.sstack.com/> or call 800-365-1311.

Other: Grains, forages, and feed preparations used in this contest will be representatives of feeds utilized in horse rations.