



# PA FFA Maple Syrup Career Development Event



## Chairperson Information

<b>CDE Chairperson</b>	Emily Kellogg
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<b>Best Contact Number</b>	585-610-5498
<b>Contest Date/Times</b>	Friday, November 7, 2025
<b>Contest Location</b>	Lake Erie Maple Expo, Northwestern High School, Albion, PA
<b>CDE Review Time</b>	
<b>CDE Review Location</b>	

## Basic CDE Guidelines

<b>Event Type:</b> Individual/Team	<b># of Team Members:</b> 4
<u>Individual Materials List</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pen or Pencil</li> <li>• Clipboard</li> <li>• Calculator</li> </ul>	<u>Group Materials List</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pen or Pencil</li> <li>• Clipboard</li> <li>• Calculator</li> </ul>
<u>Attire</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official Dress</li> </ul>	<u>CDE At-A-Glance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written Test</li> <li>• Tool Identification</li> <li>• Individual Skills Demonstrations (2-3)</li> <li>• Maple Industry Communication Skills               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team Activity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<u>Pre-State CDE Expectations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None required</li> <li>• Experience preferred</li> </ul>	
<u>CDE Changes from Previous Years?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple Industry Communication Skills</li> </ul>	

## **CDE Outline**

<b>CDE Component</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Component Description</b>
<i>Part 1 - Written Exam</i>	50	Students will complete a 25-question multiple choice exam designed to assess their knowledge of the maple industry. Topics may include maple tree identification, sap collection methods, syrup production processes, grading standards, equipment use, safety practices, value-added maple products, etc. Questions will reflect both traditional and modern industry practices.
<i>Part 2 - Tools, Equipment and Products</i>	20	Students will identify 20 tools used in the maple industry.
<i>Part 3 - Individual Skills Demonstrations</i>	150	<p>Students will be asked to demonstrate three hands-on skills related to maple production. The specific skills will be selected from a rotating list and are subject to change each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grading Maple Syrup Samples (See Vermont Maple CDE page 21)</li> <li>● Proper Tapping Techniques</li> <li>● Determining the Sugar Content of Sap</li> </ul>
<i>Part 4 - Maple Industry Communication Skills</i>	100	In this individual activity, students will demonstrate their ability to interact professionally with the public. Participants may be asked to role-play a scenario such as promoting or selling a maple product, answering customer questions, or explaining production practices to consumers. This activity is designed to assess communication skills, product knowledge, and the ability to represent the maple industry in a positive and informative manner.
<i>Part 5 - Team Activity</i>	300	<p>Team members will collaborate to address a real-world scenario related to the maple industry. This may involve solving a problem, developing a new product, promoting an event or initiative, or presenting innovative ideas. Teams will prepare a solution and present it to a panel of judges. Possible scenario topics include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Marketing and Current Trends</li> <li>● New Product Development</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition and Health</li> <li>• Sugarbush Management</li> <li>• New and Emerging Technologies</li> </ul> <p><b><u>The scenario topic will be provided to teams prior to the event to allow time for research and preparation.</u></b> This activity is designed to develop students' critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills while applying their knowledge of the maple industry.</p>
<p><b>Causes for Disqualification:</b> Talking during the contest or found cheating.</p>		
<p><b>Tie Breaker:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Test Scores</li> <li>2. Tools, Equipment and Products</li> <li>3. Skills Demonstration</li> </ol>		

### **Resources**

[Vermont Maple CDE](#)  
[University of Vermont](#)  
[PennState Extension](#)  
[Cornell Cooperative Extension](#)  
[Sweet Talk Maple Podcast](#)  
[Cornell Maple Beginner Notebook](#)  
[Cornell Maple Sugar Bush Management](#)  
[New York State Maple Tubing & Vacuum System](#)  
[New York State Maple Confections Notebook](#)  
[Maple Research](#)  
[North American Maple Producers Manual](#)  
[University of Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets](#)