



PA FFA Agriscience Fair Career Development Event



Chairperson Information

CDE Chairperson	Tiffany Hoy
Email	tmhoy@tyrone.k12.pa.us
Best Contact Number	814-571-1614
Contest Date/Times	March 31, 2026 – Application due in AET; April 21, 2026 – Interviews via Zoom
Contest Location	Online: AET & Zoom
CDE Review Time	
CDE Review Location	

Basic CDE Guidelines

Event Type: Individual/Team	# of Team Members:
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Individual Materials List</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research project must be conducted and present data from current year • Must carry as an SAE project in AET • Complete Research Agriscience Fair Application in AET under Reports • Review all rules carefully • Interview via Zoom 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Group Materials List</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research project must be conducted and present data from current year • Must carry as an SAE project in AET • Complete Research Agriscience Fair Application in AET under Reports • Review all rules carefully • Interview via Zoom (Both must attend)
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Attire</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Dress for Interview 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CDE At-A-Glance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p><u>Pre-State CDE Expectations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
<p><u>CDE Changes from Previous Years?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please read all rules carefully below. 	

CDE Rules

CDE Component	Points	Component Description
Written Application in AET with Report Completed	100	25% of overall score
Interview via Zoom	130	75% of overall score
Causes for Disqualification: See Rules below		
Tie-breaker: See Rules below		

Resources

<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/x4rd2h4a6fwwkrf5yogk9jbwwxouehnr/file/1621703913393>

Pennsylvania State FFA Agriscience Fair

Purpose

The purpose of the Agriscience Fair is to recognize student researchers studying the application of agricultural scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises.

General Information

The State Agriscience Fair is held as a separate event. It is highly recommended that participants wear FFA Official Dress for their virtual interviews.

OVERVIEW

- March 31: AET Agriscience Application due in AET (Must be submitted by FFA Advisor)
- April 21: Zoom interviews (9 AM - 2 PM). Optional Date will be April 22, depending on number of participants.
- May 1: Indicate if the 1st Place is not competing at the National FFA Level, so the 2nd place individual or team may be invited to compete.
- June: The 1st place individuals or teams in each category and division will submit final AET application in AET for National FFA competition.

Entry Components

Application/Manuscript:

- a. Use the “Agriscience Fair” award application on theAET.com via the Chapter Degree/Application. Complete/Save Your App – The button labeled “Complete/Save Your App” is how application PDF versions are generated (created).
 - i.This generated PDF is what is submitted and judged.
 - ii.As versions are generated, they are listed in the table on the screen.
 - iii.Which version to submit is chosen by the advisor.
- b. Get PDF – To view the generated application, click the “Get PDF” button next to each listed version.
- c. What you see when you open this file is what is being submitted for the judges to review.
- d. Application Submission Each FFA Advisor has selected and added the applications he/she/they want to submit.

Virtual Presentation Judging:

- a. Conducted in the month of April.
- b. Student(s) be assigned a designated time for a live Zoom session. If there is a conflict, the FFA advisor must contact the coordinator immediately to see if changes can be made.
- c. While it is recommended to create a PowerPoint slide to be the “poster”, it is not required and will not be graded. Poster Display Boards are OPTIONAL.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Competition is open to all FFA members in grades 7-12. There are six divisions.
 - Division 1 - individual member in grades 7 and 8
 - Division 2 - team of two members in grades 7 and 8
 - Division 3 - individual member in grades 9 and 10
 - Division 4 - team of two members in grades 9 and 10
 - Division 5 - individual member in grades 11 and 12
 - Division 6 - team of two members in grades 11 and 12

Grade is determined by the grade level of the member at the time of qualification at the state level. Teams can be made up of two students in different grades but will compete in the division in which the older participant would qualify. Team members must be from the same chapter at the time of qualification.

Categories of Participation (For description and examples refer to the National FFA Agriscience Guidelines):

- Animal Systems (AS)
- Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems (ENR)
- Food Products and Processing Systems (FPP)
- Plant Systems (PS)
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems (PST)
- Social Systems (SS)

Event Guidelines

1. All rules, project components, and judging criteria set forth by the National FFA Organization for the National FFA Agriscience Fair will apply to the Pennsylvania FFA Agriscience Fair. Any rule change at the national level will supersede any state policy.
2. All National FFA rules and policies concerning animal care, human subjects, safety, etc. will apply to the State FFA Agriscience Fair. All necessary forms that are required by National FFA will also be required at the State Level.
3. Each member and/or team may enter only one project. A team is a maximum of two members working cooperatively on the same project. Successive year projects must indicate change or growth in the project from the previous year(s) in their logbooks. Displays are not required, but if used it can only reflect the current year's work.
4. Extension of Agriscience Fair Projects – The completion of a research project can generate additional research questions that are worthy of investigation. Participants will have the opportunity to conduct this additional research if the current year's project could not have been done without what was learned from the past year's research. This project would now be considered an extension project for the competition.
5. All participants are required to meet virtually with the judges to explain their projects. Explanation and questioning may not exceed 15 minutes. The interview is an opportunity for judges to ask questions about the project. A team project must be presented by a team of two. If only one team member is present, the team cannot rank higher than fourth overall. Judges will ask questions to determine the extent of the knowledge gained, your understanding of your project, how it relates to your SAE and possibly how your project relates to other FFA activities.
 - The following is a list of example questions that may be asked:
 - How and why was the project selected?
 - What was your goal? What did you plan to accomplish in your project?
 - Were there any surprises in your project? How did you handle them?
 - What did you learn from the experience?
 - How much time did you devote to the project?
 - What kept you from being discouraged?
 - How did you manage time for this project in relation to your other activities?
 - How would you advise others doing a project? What is the value of completing an agriscience fair project?
 - How can your findings and conclusions be applied in the agriculture, food, and natural resources industry?
 - The interview schedule will be released 7 days prior to the start of the first interview.
 - Students with conflicts may not be able to change his/her scheduled time. Please contact Pennsylvania State FFA AgriScience Chair if you have conflicts, and the person will try to accommodate the change. If they cannot participate in the interview, the participant/team will receive a zero for that portion of the event.
 - Substitutions are not permitted.
6. Exhibited projects and project reports shall be the result of the student(s) own efforts.
7. The first-place exhibitor(s) in each division of the six categories will earn the right to represent Pennsylvania at the National Agriscience Fair; if the 1st place person or team declines to

participate in the national competition by May 1st, the 2nd place person or team may represent the state at the national level.

8. Once a student or team wins a division and category/pathway, they can no longer compete in that division and category/pathway regardless of the research subject.
 - Example: If a student wins Animal Systems Division I as a 7th grader, they can no longer participate in that Division. They can compete in Animal Systems Division II as an 8th grader or even Animal Systems Division 5 as an 11th grader.

Professional Integrity

FFA members participating in national FFA programs and events understand and agree that all work must result from their own effort and ability, created, and completed alone (except for partner or chapter applications). When outside sources (direct quotes or phrases, specific dates, figures, or other materials) are used for a project, document, or application, the required reference citation must be completed according to the rules specified by the applicable handbook.

While participating in National FFA programs, FFA members are prohibited from:

- Plagiarizing
- Violating copyright
- Cheating
- Falsifying information
- Using another person's results or thoughts as their own, even with this person's permission. This includes work done by a family member or a mentor.
- Using information or data obtained from the internet without proper citation.

Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage will not be tolerated. Non-compliance represents plagiarism and will automatically disqualify a member.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for National Programs and Events

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems capable of performing complex tasks that historically only a human could do, such as reasoning, making decisions, or solving problems. As AI continues to evolve, it can be a tremendous tool to help companies, organizations and individuals enhance their productivity and work. Therefore, the National FFA Organization allows the use of AI tools. FFA members may use AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and CoPilot, to assist them in their learning.

Appropriate uses of AI may include:

- generating ideas for any FFA-related assignments, projects, contests, and award applications
- Checking facts of a phenomenon
- checking for and correcting grammatical errors in a paper written by a member

For more information, please see the Standard Operating Procedures on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for National Program and Events document - <https://ffa.app.box.com/v/NFFAAIPolicy>

Awards

- The top projects, per Division and Category, will receive a plaque and be recognized during the State FFA Convention. Depending on sponsor availability students may receive a cash award. If a student (s) research project is named a national finalist and the member is traveling to the National FFA Convention & Expo, they will be provided with a travel stipend for participation, similar to the other Pennsylvania FFA CDE/LDE award representatives.
- Awards are sponsored by cooperating industry sponsors as a special project and/or by the general fund of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation.

Students who wish to continue research on the same topic or who have won a division and category/pathway are encouraged to seek additional recognition using the agriscience proficiency award or star award.

- If a student wishes to continue with the same research, at least one variable must be changed, and the data must be from the current year. For more information consult the Extension of Agriscience Fair portion of this handbook.
- Students may compete in another agriscience research category/pathway within the agriscience fair.
- Students may not participate in more than one category/pathway and division of the agriscience fair each year.

National FFA 2026 Agriscience Fair Handbook:

<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/x4rd2h4a6fwwkrf5yogk9jbwwwouehnr/file/1621703913393>

- Rules
- Tips on Completing Application
- Links to Scoring sheets for both Written reports (labeled “pre-qualifying”) and Interview.