

102nd ANNUAL
**KANSAS STATE CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
EVENTS IN AGRICULTURE**

**Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
May 3-5, 2026
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS**



You are cordially invited to represent your high school and FFA chapter in the 102nd annual Kansas State Career Development Events in Agriculture to be held at Kansas State University, May 3-5, 2026.

We are pleased to have you participate in the Career Development Events and to be the guests of Kansas State University and the College of Agriculture, sponsors of the Career Development Events.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY | College of Agriculture

Important Contact Information

Jon Ulmer	julmer@ksu.edu	785-532-6151
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Important Dates

Registration Deadline	Wednesday, April 22 by 11:59 p.m.
Entry Fees Due	Wednesday, April 29 by 5 p.m.
State FFA CDEs	Sunday, May 3-5

Mailing Address

Kansas State University
College of Agriculture - Ag Academic Programs
117 Waters Hall
1603 Old Claflin Pl.
Manhattan, KS 66506

GENERAL INFORMATION

All questions and feedback should be relayed to Jon Ulmer, julmer@ksu.edu, which will then be shared with individual event coordinators.

Registration Entries of teams and team members in the Kansas State Career Development Events in Agriculture **must be entered by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.** Entries are made on this website. *No other form of entry will be accepted. No additional teams or chapters will be allowed to register after the due date.* Chapters/teams who are not entered by the due date cannot participate in the events.

No team member substitutions will be allowed after the registration deadline, unless accepted by the coordinator of the career development event. Exceptions will be made in the case of illness, emergency, or death of a family member or close friend. Individual contest coordinators are the **ONLY** people who may grant exceptions to this policy. To be considered as registered, the students' full names must be entered and they must be FFA members.

Late Arrivals Once a CDE has started, late arrivals are not allowed to join a CDE. Exceptions to this policy may only be granted by the coordinator of the CDE.

Entry Fees There is a \$10.00 entry fee *per CDE team*. There is NOT an entry fee for LDEs. **Fees are due by April 29, 2026.** Failure to pay will result in the chapter not being able to participate. Checks should be made payable to Kansas State

University and sent to Agriculture Academic Programs, 117 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506. Questions should be directed to Jon Ulmer by e-mail.

Eligibility Any high school student who meet the following stipulations will be eligible to compete in the Kansas State Career Development Events in Agriculture.

- a. Currently enrolled undergraduate high school student who is successfully carrying at least four units of high school work.
- b. Less than 20 years of age.
- c. Has not competed as a member of a past state CDE winning team in the Kansas State Career Development Events in Agriculture, Area Land Judging or Homesite, or Envirthon in the event (area) in which he/she plans to compete.
- d. Has not been a member of a team that represented Kansas in the National FFA Career Development Event in that area.
- e. Is a member of a Kansas FFA Association chapter deemed in “good standing” with the Kansas FFA Association. Chapters that are not in good standing with the Kansas FFA Association will not be allowed to compete or participate in Kansas FFA CDEs.
- f. No individual or team shall be eligible to compete in the agricultural events who has inspected or worked on university livestock, products or specimens within 10 days prior to the event.

The eligibility rules for Kansas FFA CDE's in regards to past state winning teams and individuals are not open for interpretation. State winning team is further defined and can be referred to as the state champion team and/or state first place team. State winning team status is based on official, final results recognized by the Kansas FFA Association. The rules are to be followed in this order.

- If you are a member of a past state winning team, you are forever ineligible to return to compete in that CDE.
- If you are a member of a state winning team, and you DO NOT compete at nationals, you are forever ineligible.
- If you are a member of a state winning team, and you DO compete at nationals, you are forever ineligible.
- If you are a replacement member of a state winning team, and compete in the National FFA CDE/LDE, you are forever ineligible to compete in that State CDE.
- If a team or individual competes in the State CDE with an ineligible member(s), that entire team's score and the ineligible team member's score(s) will be disqualified.
- It is highly recommended that the chapter advisor provides a summary of the FFA member(s) who qualify for an exception and brings that to the attention of the Kansas FFA Association PRIOR to the due date for submitting State CDE/LDE Entries.
- In fairness to all students of the Kansas FFA Association, any special cases, including and not limited to mistakes, missing deadlines, disqualification, illness, accidents, family emergencies and personal tragedy, will not be reviewed, discussed or considered. If FFA members are going to compete in multiple state CDE's and compete at a championship level, the risks associated with these rules of eligibility will be assumed by the advisor of the FFA Chapter.

- All members of past state champion teams in the Kansas FFA Entomology CDE will be forever ineligible to compete in the Kansas FFA State Entomology CDE, as there is no National FFA Entomology CDE to qualify for.

EXCEPTIONS/CLARIFICATION

- If you are a member of multiple state winning teams and qualify for National CDE/LDEs in multiple areas, AND compete at Nationals in the other area, then you may retain your eligibility for the CDE/LDE you did not compete in Nationally.
- If you are a member of multiple state winning teams and do not compete in any of the National FFA CDE/LDEs you qualified for, you are forever ineligible in every state winning CDE/LDE you were a member of.
- If you are a member of a state winning team, and EVERY other member of your team is competing National FFA CDE or LDE, leaving you as a SINGLE individual who can not field a team to represent Kansas due to the Kansas FFA Rule of taking 50% of the original state winning team to nationals, then you may return the following year.

Exception Scenario Further Explained:

If an individual student is a competing member of an additional National FFA Convention qualifying CDE or LDE team in the same year AND that student competes at the National FFA Convention CDE's or LDE's, that student may return to compete again in the State CDE they did not elect to compete in at the National FFA Convention. Example: The Tuttle Creek FFA has two state winning teams: Ag Communications and Livestock Judging. Students who won the State Ag Communications CDE are Bill, Susan, Karen, and James. Students who won the State Livestock Judging CDE are Sarah, Timothy, Susan, and Laura. Susan is a member of both state winning teams. Susan chooses to continue with her livestock team and competes at National FFA Convention. Susan is still eligible to return to compete in the State Ag Communications CDE the following year, provided all other eligibility criteria is met. Timothy is a member of the state winning Livestock team. Timothy placed first in the State Extemporaneous Speaking LDE. Timothy chooses to compete in Extemporaneous Speaking at the National FFA Convention. Timothy is still eligible to return to compete in the State Livestock Judging CDE, provided all other eligibility criteria is met. Bill, Karen, and James are now ineligible to participate in State Ag Communications again. Sarah, Susan, and Laura are now ineligible to participate in State Livestock Judging again.

Recommendations

The KAAE strongly encourages agriculture education instructors:

- a. to send only quality individuals who understand the CDE and its workings***
- b. to stop using state CDEs as 'dumping grounds' or a 'baby-sitting service'***
- c. to stop using state CDEs as an exploratory event for first time or future contestants***
- d. to send contestants with the proper dress and equipment for that CDE, including pencils for computer-graded events***

Teams Four-member teams are allowed to participate in the Agricultural Communications, Farm and Agribusiness Management, Ag Technology and Mechanical Systems, Agricultural Sales, Agronomy, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Milk Quality and Products, Entomology, Food Science and Technology, Floriculture, Horse Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, Meats Evaluation and Technology, Nursery & Landscape, Poultry Evaluation, and Veterinary Science events. Some contests may only grade the scores of the top three individuals per team, please refer to individual guidelines for more information.

Individuals Chapters that do not find it possible to send a team to compete may enter less than the number needed for a full team in any of the events. Such entries would compete only for individual awards.

Dress Participants should recognize they are representing their individual chapters and schools, as well as the Kansas FFA Association, when participating in CDEs. Appropriate dress should be worn during events and during the awards ceremony by all students. Shorts, tank tops and slogan t-shirts are strongly discouraged. FFA jackets are recommended for the awards ceremony. FFA jackets are not to be worn while the contestants are giving oral reasons in the Dairy, Horse and Livestock Evaluation events. Participants in Milk Quality and Products need to be in long pants, shirts with sleeves, and closed shoes with socks. Participants in Meats Evaluation must wear hairnets (provided) and head covering. Shorts and sandals/flip-flops will not be allowed. Hats or ball caps should not be worn inside any university classrooms and will not be allowed in CDEs. **Smart watches will not be permitted in any CDEs.**

Materials

If a student uses a pen instead of pencil when filling out a Scantron, that student's scores are not guaranteed to be correct and may be dropped from the scoring process. In the case in which a student uses a pen, the coordinators are not responsible for manual entry in CDEs in which Scantrons are used.

No tests, materials, items, etc., are allowed to leave the CDE unless coordinators state otherwise. If items are taken or students/chapters/advisors are found with them, this will result in disqualification of that chapter from that individual CDE.

Ties Ties are resolved individually for each CDE, please refer to individual guidelines for further information.

Tabulation The best efforts of university personnel will be utilized to provide all official results at the awards ceremony. Any contest tabulation not completed by the end of the awards ceremony will be available on the website as soon as possible.

In the event of an error in tabulation of CDE results, the K-State Chair of the CDE coordinating committee and the specific CDE coordinator will resolve written appeals

associated only with tabulation errors. Written appeals from FFA advisors must be made within 48 hours of the posting of CDE results on the web. Event coordinators may also initiate a review of the tabulation. Except for such written appeals in which tabulation error(s) are detected, results posted on the web are considered final and official results. When tabulation errors have been determined for individual student awards, duplication of medals or certificates may be necessary. When errors have been determined for team awards, plaques must be returned by the team(s) who received them in error. Official judges' decisions are final and are not eligible for appeal.

Errors related to a team number marked incorrectly on a scantron may be corrected during tabulation; however, no changes may be made to participant names, responses, placings, or any other qualifying answers.

Eligibility for teams representing Kansas in the National Career Development Events

Team members must be eligible for the national competition at the time they win the state event to represent Kansas in the National FFA Career Development Events. If the Kansas team winning first place in the state CDE consists of one or more team members who are ineligible for the national Career Development Event, the next place team with all members eligible shall represent Kansas in the national event. Teams qualifying to participate in the Career Development Events, Leadership Development Events and other competitive events above state competition must maintain 50% of the original qualifying team members in order to represent the Kansas FFA Association at the national event.

Awards

Medals and Plaques are courtesy of the KSU Ag Alumni Association and the Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau. Team plaques: First, second, and third place teams will receive a plaque for their ranking in each of the events. Gold medals: A medal will be awarded to each of the ten high individuals in the Gold Division, in each of the events.

Teams and individuals competing will be ranked by their scores in each of the events. The highest 50 percent of teams and individuals competing in each event will receive special recognition as follows: (1) the highest 10 percent to be placed in the Gold Division; (2) the next 20 percent to be placed in the Silver Division; and (3) the next 20 percent to be placed in the Bronze Division.

Electronic Devices

During the Kansas State FFA Career Development Events, the following policy will be enforced:

No smart watches, cell phones, MP3 players, etc. will be allowed in any CDE for ANY reason (not even as calculators or clocks). If a group leader, CDE official, or agriculture teacher sees a student pull out a cell phone, MP3 player, etc., the student will be disqualified immediately and asked to leave the event – NO EXCEPTIONS!

If students have their smart watches, cell phones, MP3 players, etc. in their pockets during an event, they are to be turned off. If cell phones, MP3 players, etc. "accidentally" go off in the middle of an event, students will be disqualified

and asked to leave the event immediately. In addition, no cell phones, MP3 players, etc. will be allowed in CDE "holding rooms", such as Par Law, Public Speaking, etc. Even if turned off, cell phones, MP3 players, etc. are not to be found in any holding room whatsoever.

Disabilities Special accommodations will be granted for those with medically documented disabilities.

Parking Visitors will no longer need to print out a visitor permit or stop by Parking Services. Payment will be available upon arrival using a pay station in the parking garage or the **ParkMobile** app. You can register your vehicle for event parking on your computer or with your mobile device. Each chapter is responsible for their own parking using the ParkMobile app. Signs with QR codes are in each parking lot.

BUS parking is available on the East side of Bill Snyder family stadium (football stadium).